

Lummi Island Gooseberry Point Security Survey

September 2012

Conducted by Protect Lummi Island Community (PLIC)

Purpose – The purpose of this study is to determine islander attitudes about the July 27, 2012 announcement that all security measures at Gooseberry Point will cease after November 15, 2012.

Methodology – A total of 69 surveys were completed between September 1 and September 16, 2012. Surveys were circulated both electronically and by hard copy with an announcement September 1st and reminder on September 9th. Surveys were made available through:

- The Islander
- Island Library Bulletin Board
- Lummi Island Post Office Bulletin Board
- PLIC list (520 subscribers)
- The Tome's Brown Betty (387 subscribers)
- Next Door Lummi Island (381 members)
- Facebook Lummi Island Friends Group (210 members)

In rank order, surveys were returned via:

- The Islander
- Email
- Mail

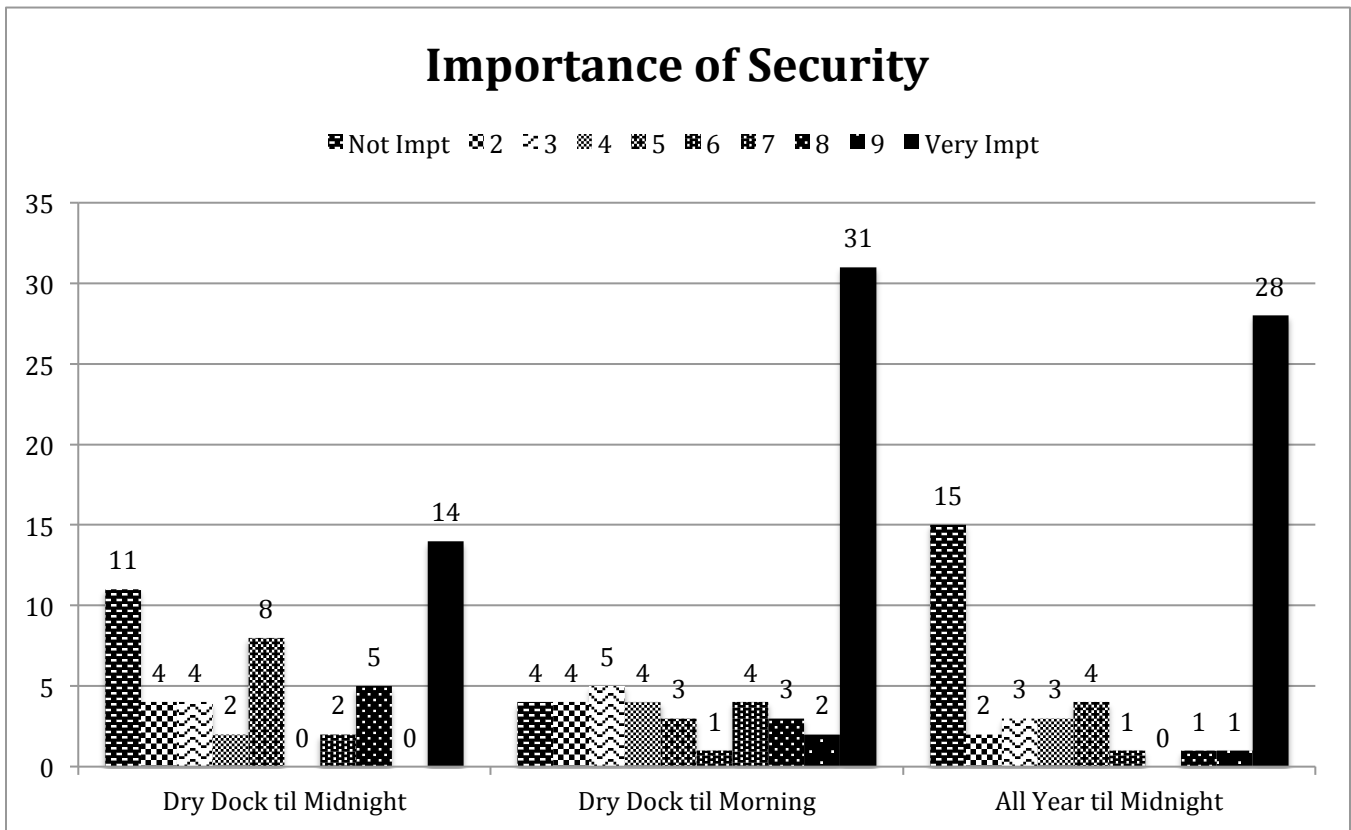
Issues Probed –

- Importance of security from dusk to close of ferry operations – Dry Dock Only
- Importance of security from dusk until morning – Dry Dock Only
- Importance of security from dusk to close of ferry operations – All Year

Note: Security from dusk until morning all year was not probed since that had already been recognized as a necessary budget savings.

Summary of Importance of Security at Gooseberry Point

- Nearly half the respondents consider security until morning during dry dock very important.
- Almost as many people consider security until the ferry ceases operation all year very important.
- About one in five consider year-round security not at all important.



Note: Respondents were invited to select a level of important in each category. Not every respondent made a selection in every category.

Verbatims

- I am a 30-year-old female walking across the ferry alone. I am on the 5:40 (am) ferry every day and it is black dark. Due to previous attempted alterations at Gooseberry, I already carry mace – with the security guard. I'm not worried about my car. I can replace it. I'm worried about my personal safety.
- My preference is all year from dusk until morning.
- Highest security need is from close of ferry operations until morning.
- I feel strongly that a security guard is needed during the darkness hours of ferry operation for the personal safety of all ferry users.

Security services were added several years ago after an assault and other incidents of harassment, aggressive panhandling, vandalism and theft. Most incidents went unreported. The addition of security services has minimized this problem. The fact that security services have been effective in reducing the incidents is not a reason to eliminate the security guard. A security guard during darkness hours of ferry operation is preferable to individuals providing for their own personal safety.

There is no need for security services after hours of ferry operation (except perhaps during ferry shutdown) as has been done in recent years.

Reducing security services to darkness hours of ferry operation would save approximately \$35,000 annually compared to darkness to dawn services that has been the established practice. If additional savings are needed, it would be possible to save \$15,000 by eliminating the van service during shutdown. Before the van service was provided, people managed to arrange for their own transportation to and from the ferry on the island. From my perspective the combination of these two savings is preferable to eliminating security service in its entirety.

- Government's first duty is public safety. Several years ago the county hired security at Gooseberry Point for the protection and safety of islanders and their vehicles. Harassment, vandalism, theft and assault prompted this action. That the situation has improved is a testament to how well security is working.
- Evening-night-time I have been harassed by unknown men – as have other women I know of – while waiting for a ferry. When security is there it makes a difference.
- Given the new parking situation – distance from the loading area and no lighting, it is evident that dusk to dawn security will be necessary to prevent vandalism and provide personal safety.

Verbatims (continued)

- I was surprised that there seemed to be a missing question – from dusk until morning all year? But be that as it may, my main concern is personal safety since parking is no longer close. So the hours of dusk till operations end is that time of increased fear of personal safety. That being said, I don't know if the statistics reflect that reality with any incidence of assault. For material safety, cars, etc., I am willing to trust the Lummi police to patrol in their normal course of duties without needing anything extra. However, it seems reasonable that a couple of security cameras would also be reasonable and maybe also in the Lummi Nation's interest as well.
- I never leave a car at Gooseberry so security is not a concern of mine.
- I would like to see the emphasis placed on supporting the ferry so that the schedule is not reduced. Fewer people can live here if we don't have a workable schedule, it is what built the population we have. The ferry is a vehicle ferry – not a subway.
- This (8,3,8) is my situation. I realize other people have other needs.
- Best solution is secure fenced lot year-round.
- If we have no lot to park in and we are parking off road, maybe Lummi law or sheriff dept. would be a better choice. Extra patrol. Security guard should have a weapon and not always nap!
- Somewhat unrelated, but I would like to see dry dock moved to early Oct. like the Skagit County does with the Guemes Island Ferry. September is usually a great month here and I think moving to Oct. would be a plus for homeowners, tourists, island businesses and for ferry revenues.
- Let's start going to Fairhaven.
- I am assuming the security is for our vehicles...so no point having security only 'til midnight. A nurse friend who lives on the island came home on the midnight during dry dock a few years ago. She saw a couple suspicious men next to the only remaining parking space. She drove back to the security guard and asked him to follow her. He said they were NOT allowed to help and could NOT give her a ride...could NOT follow her from the parking spot, could NOT turn his headlights on to light up the parking space...so this is why the dusk 'till midnight has no sense to it...any half-brained thief would wait 'till after midnight to siphon gas or break into vehicles. I have had the gas siphoned from my truck during dry dock with a security guard...I was parked at the far end towards the Stommish Grounds.
- At this point I don't need to leave a vehicle on the mainland so don't have a considered opinion on security except if a visitor should need to park.
- Thanks for all your efforts.

Verbatims (continued)

- At first viewing of the ferry security question, I was not going to even respond to the survey as it is not even close to being a valid question in context of other ferry matters. Nothing operates separately from everything else – especially when it comes to Whatcom County ferry issues. This questions needs to be posed with a whole series of other questions regarding for example GP parking, continuing a walk-on service, rest room service, rate structure and indefinite “temporary” rate increases and most important of all, “How has your use of the ferry changed since the last several rate increases”.
- We suggest cut Mr. Abart’s Public Works budget.
- Security for both cars & people of extreme importance.

Security at Gooseberry Point Survey

September 2012

Understanding that continuing to have security may necessitate cuts elsewhere in the county's Public Works budget, I consider having security at Gooseberry Point:

(Please circle one choice for each of the following statements):

Not
Important

Very
Important

Only during dry dock from dusk until the close of ferry operations (around midnight)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Only during dry dock from dusk until morning	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
All year from dusk until the close of ferry operations (around midnight):	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Other suggestions/comments (use back if needed) _____

Name (Required) _____

Address (Required) _____

Phone Number (Optional) _____

Please complete this survey and either:

- Mail to PLIC, PO Box 266, Lummi Island, WA 98262
- Scan and email to info@plicferry.org
- Or leave your completed survey at The Islander