MIC Meeting
MINUTES – Approved 8/24/12
May 11, 2012
10 am – 2 pm
Island Institute, Rockland Maine

Attendees:
Roger Berle, Chair, Cliff Island
Rudy Graf, Isle au Haut
Bev Johnson, Chebeague
Eva Murray, Matinicus
Bev Roxby, Frenchboro
Kathy Warren, Vinalhaven
Lisa Shields, North Haven
Mark Greene, Long Island
Cheryl Crowley, Cliff Island
Betsy Webber, Great Diamond Island
Donna Damon, Chebeague (via phone)
Tara Hire, Monhegan (via phone)
Rudy Graf, Isle au Haut
Donna Wiegle, Swan’s Island
Arch Gillies, Islesboro

Legislators and Guests:
Chris Rector, Maine Senate District 22
Chuck Kruger, Maine House, District 48
Dennis Damon

Island Institute Staff:
Rob Snyder, Executive VP
Heather Deese, VP of Programs
Nick Battista, Marine Programs Director
Suzanne MacDonald, Community Energy Director
Mary Terry, Community Development Director
Gillian Thompson, Editor of the Working Waterfront
Brooks Winter, Community Energy Associate
Caitlin Cleaver, Policy Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 p.m. and introductions were made.

Legislative Updates:
Chris Rector, Maine Senate District 22

- Session is nearing completion – the budget was voted out of appropriations yesterday.
  - There will be a vote on Supplemental Budget on Tuesday, May 15th.
  - Vote Tuesday Supplemental budget
- Accomplishments this session include:
  - Labor law changes
  - Changes in workers comp law that should helpful to make business climate conducive to econ growth
  - Tax reform package
  - Reform of pension system – it was needed as pension costs were crowding out other state activities
  - Changes to health insurance laws – purchase across state lines, in alignment with needs of the Affordable Care Act
  - Joint Select Committee of Government Reform – traveled around state, 8 public hearings re: government regulation – dealt with a number of pieces of regulatory reform –
  - Work well together – despite the rhetoric in the paper
    - LURC reform
    - Vernal Pool Regulations
  - Lisa Shields asked a State Ferry Service question – why aren’t we exempt from the blanket hiring freeze? It takes 3 – 5 weeks to obtain an exemption from a hiring freeze which is a false economy in terms of hiring - Chris Rector agreed to look into this issue.

Dennis Damon

- Serves on the Board of Directors – Maine Seacoast Mission – chairs committee on Island Services
  - Includes Sunbeam, telemedicine
  - Interested in the benefits – costly but worth it
- Serves as the chair Board of Directors of Penobscot East – mission to secure the future for the communities in the Down East area
- Maine Ferry Service Advisory Board – serves with Lisa
  - Transportation includes roads, bridges, and ferries
  - New ferry celebrated – this discussion started in 1994 or so
  - 10 million dollar vessel –
  - Time to think about the next ferry
  - Need to advocate to Augusta – to teach about the working people of the islands

MIC Business:
Kathy Warren moved to approve the minutes, Mark Greene seconded – motion passed. Minutes approved as written.

Roger Berle gave a brief report on the treasury.
- Assessment is $200/yr per island and is held by Island Institute to cover staff and expenses
- The 2011 assessments are paid, with the exception of Monhegan
- The 2012 assessments will be out soon (Roger will send them)

Mark Greene moved to approve the treasurer’s report, Bev Johnson seconded – motion passed. Report approved as provided.

Island Updates:

Frenchboro – Bev Roxby
- Town meeting is slated for 6/25
- On-going dissention within the community
- School – Bev is on school board
  - 12 kids
  - Doug & Michelle Finn leaving after 4 yrs and have been wonderful teachers
  - Frenchboro finished 3rd in the State Lego League competition
  - Teacher interviews next Wed – interviewing for 2 positions - not sure how many students will be in the school next year. May hire one or two teachers, depending upon budget and population
- We may lose some families – current population 61 or so
- Programs offered from Fire Dept.
  - Becky Lenfestey – Town Administrative Assistant and the Head of the Fire Department
  - Had a fire a couple of yrs ago – lost the house
  - Swan’s helped fight the fire
  - Received a 50 K gift to make community action ready
  - Used funds to purchase a pumper truck and brush truck purchased
- Wharf and Harbor Issues
  - SHIP letter of intent submitted by Town Manager/Administrator – Michael Colleran
  - Engineering plan in place
  - Need to upgrade electricity
- Solid Waste Committee
  - Hired 2 solid waste assistants to manage the site and processes
  - Need volunteers to go off for recycle and redemption
  - Working to minimize freight to take solid waste off
Redemption container area/recycling is taking shape
Shed for cardboard about to be installed

- Property Tax dispute
  - Continues to be a town issue
  - Appreciate input from other communities
  - Who owns the church – for taxation issues

- Community continues to struggle
- Comments – Donna Wiegle
  - Applaud efforts for recycling on Frenchboro
  - Suggests having an outside assessor come and update assessing – on Swan’s Island it was 80K, well spent
    - Financed over 5 yrs
    - Mill rates went down, valuation went up
    - Time was spent with owners to explain the assessment process
- Comments – Mark Greene
  - Long Island created digital maps and did ground work to measure homes, survey etc. and created a data base with an Island Fellow –
  - hired an outside assessor to update the taxation based on the ground work
  - Evaluations increased – taxes went down –
    - Undeveloped land evaluation went up – we viewed all land as developable
    - Homes taxes did not increase
- Comments – Kathy Warren
  - Get bids for assessors

North Haven – Lisa Shields
- Property Evaluation takes place every 10 years on North Haven
  - cost roughly 60k last time
  - takes the burden off the select board or board of assessors
  - There is a pot of money needed to run the town – evaluation increase does not mean tax burden increases – mil rate can drop
  - Having an outside entity assess helps diffuse issues
- 2 Seniors Graduating and going on to college
- Barney Hallowell, the principal is retiring and will be missed
  - Hired a new principal
- Town Meeting
  - Reports to share
  - Issue – Second Bridge repair up for a vote – passed by 1 vote
  - Dock and pier maintenance is an important an issue for lobstermen
- State Ferry Service
  - Need a blanket exemption for hiring freeze
- Potential for crew issues and no ferry – especially in the case of emergency
- Maine Housing – 2 homes completed
  - 6 applicants from island, 2 awarded
- Fire Dept.
  - La Salle Island fire occurred in middle of April
    - Island is unoccupied
    - Called Maine Forest Service – very helpful
    - Sent out a helicopter and inmates and guards
- Turner Farm is moving along
  - 3 years into the project
  - Organic Farm
  - Hires island people
  - Farm Stand
  - Putting in a poultry processing plant
    - 700 chicks to process
  - Goats and Cheese – increased flock this year
    - Order thru buying co-op
  - Getting 3 calves for a planned 2013 milking season
- School Budget –
  - Highest per pupil cost in State
- Matinicus – Eva Murray
  - 2nd book out this summer (late)
    - Island Schoolhouse: One Room for All
  - Things are good with the school
    - May have 2 kids next year
      - May be a brother & sister
    - New teacher hired for next year
    - Cost is high putting the school board a tough position
      - School repairs completed last year were expensive and have raised some issues within community regarding cost and low bidder issues
  - Town meeting – last Saturday in April
    - Good meeting
    - $6,000 approved at town meeting for household waste collection – done last year through a SPO grant
    - 3500 lb. recycling hauled off last week
      - Volunteers need to volunteer, we provide with an expense account to cover the cost of hauling recycling off island
  - Airstrip resurface project is about to happen
  - Matinicus Plantation Power Company
    - Experimenting with a tiny hydrogen project they started last week
Paul Murray is doing the work
If it turns out interesting we will share
Jared Brey – lobstermen has tried it on his boat
Unit cost under $1,000
Trying to reduce diesel usage
  o Want to try solar – just beginning to think through how to collect data to assess the possibilities
  o No grid to mainland
  Penobscot Air – may get a caravan
  Comments - Chuck Kruger – Lyman Morse has been using mobile solar units – bigger with storage

Great Diamond – Betsy Weber
  Waiting for our ferry pier to be rebuilt
    o They are still working on Little Diamond Pier due to a fire during the work
    o Portland Fire Department has issues with the fire dock – we are hoping improving the dock will address those issues
  Volunteer fire department is active
    o 2 trucks
    o Ambulance
    o Look to Long Island more than Portland
      ▪ Major fire on island a while back and Long Island was very helpful
  Lots of construction and renovations on island
    o Cove – Ft McKinley... * 7 new families on the island
  Difficult to state the year round population but there are 78 registered voters on island
  Taxes – determined by City of Portland
    o Classifications – waterfront, water view, non-water view
    o Can appeal
  Recycling good on island –
    o Trash truck off each week
    o CLYNK – bag them, and send them off via Casco Bay Lines Ferry system by arrangements and CLYNK picks them up
      ▪ Based in Portland – redemption program
  Comments – many communities use bottles & cans as fund raisers
  1 school child, a 1st grader is attending Long Island as a tuition student
    o There are 3 children on island, 1 high school student, 1 middle school student, and the first grader. The older students go to school in Portland

Cliff Island – Cheryl Crowley/Roger Berle
• The School is working with Outer Island Collaborative – using Tandberg – to link to the other outer island communities
  o Cliff is a part of Portland which changes the dynamics
  o Teachers fairly independent of Portland
  o Great Teacher team
  o 4 students in the school now
• Great fire department
  o Trucks and trained people on island
• Housing an issue
  o No designated teacher’s home
  o Setting up an affordable housing corp/organization
• City of Portland owns our docks
  o Last renovation ~ 1990
• Deer situation good
  o Culling program through the City
    ▪ Sharp shooters – team of 3
    ▪ Specific locations/times/feed stations
    ▪ Assess healthy size of herd
    ▪ Hunting in progress
• Trying to salvage the 2nd store and fuel depot using LMF/WWF $
• Land conservation – is supported as it is not seen not taking local land out of the tax base but rather, as part of the larger City, taxation issues are spread widely
• Looked at secession -7 years ago or so, the effort died

Vinalhaven – Kathy Warren
• Town Meeting takes place in June
• School
  o School Budget Meeting end of May
    ▪ Contention
  o Pre-k now under the school system rather than private
    ▪ Issues around funding
  o Teaching positions open
  o 3 School Board Members up for election in June
    ▪ 1 is re-running
  o 12 graduates –
    ▪ Many attending college
    ▪ Kassandra Hopkins received a $250,000 Leonore Annenberg Scholarship to attend any undergraduate college or university in the country
    ▪ Significant scholarships to other students as well
• Lots of budget conversations – close scrutiny
• Cell tower up, no carriers yet
EMS very excited
Community is mixed reaction
Students, teachers and broader community do not want cell phones in school
  Middle school survey – students decided not to have cell phones in school – preserving culture/attention/focus

Medical Center
New NP on staff

Comment – Bev Roxby – Wind turbines
Issue is quieter

New Ferry arrived!
Elevator concerns for summer freight
22 cars

Swan’s Island – Donna Wiegle
Wind feasibility Study has been completed
On hold now – studies proved strong, financial issues

Deer
Lyme disease an issue
Vector Bourne disease Program - Maine Med is doing a community presentation and tick survey, Chuck Lubelczeyk will speak
Comment - Mark Greene – Long Island had a good experience with this group around ticks education
Hunting Season exists

Town Meeting last month
General assistance spending is high
Lumped into GA was emergency ferry runs – cost of $600 to Swan’s $650 to other islands – after hours emergency runs
2011 – $8,400 charged to Town by State Ferry
  Recently the Town contracted with outside agency to do billing
  Never have billed before
  Letter sent out to community 5/5 announcing the billing for all emergency services

Recycling committee formed
Studying disposal district
Moving in the right direction

Fire Department
2 stations/ great equipment
Bought a truck for $1 and needed $11,000+ to repair – doubled firefighting capacity
New Facebook page

Island Roads an issue
Road Ranger – Phil Curtis – is coming to talk with the Town about road issues so that we can learn about how and what we need to do
  - Need $ to repair - $300,000

Maine State Ferry
  - Capt. Henry Lee – in for repairs
    - Reduced car ferry capacity

Long Island – Mark Greene
  - 20th annual town meeting tomorrow
    - School bus purchase being considered to abate 4 runs for subcontractor
    - Fireworks ordinance under consideration
  - Town Reports – brought to share

School
  - 21 students
  - School bus being considered

Tick Forum
  - Panel Discussion – held on island in April– excellent
  - Deer - Active hunting program – closed to community
    - 45 deer taken this year
    - Looking at a baiting program
    - State has been very helpful
  - Lyme is an issue - 40 people have had Lyme – population of 200+/-

Year round housing Corp
  - Housing issues remain
    - Especially for families
    - Need apartments
  - In process of applying for the MaineHousing Bond Program
    - MaineHousing has been great to work with
    - 2 sets of plans with MaineHousing
    - ADA compliant issues
    - 2 rental houses will be completed

Junk Cars
  - Demand for metal is high – so junk cars are going

Inter-island issue
  - Hope Island building/noise issues
  - Example of need for conservation of island
  - Part of Chebeague and the code enforcement officer is working to address the issues

Chebeague – Bev Johnson
  - Hope Island
• People live there year round
  • Code enforcement officer is working on this issue
    ▪ Crafting a nuisance ordinance around noise— working with
      MMA (Maine Municipal Association)
• CICA (Chebeague Island Community Association)
  o http://www.chebeague.org/CICA/Chebeague_Island_Community_Association/Home.html
  o Houses ready to go July 1
  o Renter applications now out
• Historical Society
  o New exhibit
  o Historical Report is out – copies available at the meeting
• Town Report not out yet
• 2 new businesses
  o Island Services - propane
  o Hank Whetham – farm stand and lobster tank
• Taxi service out of service
• Island Commons –
  o One opening
  o Continues to struggle with funding
• Gardens ahead of schedule
• Summer theater
  o Guys & Dolls
  o Singing in the Rain
• Budget looks good
• 2 miles of roads to be repaired soon
  o $250,000 begin work w/in 2 weeks
• 3 town positions open – through retirements
• Recycle – Chedemption
  o Volunteers
  o $ to non-profits
• Hunter issues
  o Deer under control
  o Community has an open season
    ▪ Recently had a community meeting to talk about rules
• Chebeague.net - $75,000 grant
  o DSL – now upgraded to 900 service
  o Speed need increased
  o Now want to look at microwave
• Chebeague.org – as others noted is an amazing website
  o http://www.chebeague.org/
• Comments – Roger Berle - Cliff island fireworks happen every 5 years and this is the year. They will launching the fireworks on 7/8 off CTC barge, 9 pm – Roger thanked CTC facilities

Isle au Haut – Rudy Graf
• ICDC (Isle au Haut Community Development Corporation)
  o [http://isleauhaut.org](http://isleauhaut.org)
  o Housing - MaineState Housing Bond
    ▪ 2 houses
    ▪ Approval on design
    ▪ Closing in June
    ▪ Construction starts in June/July
  o Mico-Loan
    ▪ 2 loans to fishermen in 1st quarter
• Town Meetings
  o Went smoothly
  o Voted 45K to support boat company
    ▪ Private/non-profit
    ▪ 501 C 3
  o Voted 25K to island store
    ▪ Off islander has supported the store
      ▪ No longer manages the store – new manager
      ▪ Fragile situation
  o New Business
    ▪ Gift Shop – on the water
      ▪ New person moved to island, married an islander
      ▪ Stocked with all Maine products
        ▪ Food, books, jewelry
      ▪ Brought along Maxwell the llama
      ▪ And brought 6 beehives, one made it
  o Leadership
    ▪ An issue – can’t find people to fill jobs
    ▪ Town Meeting –
      ▪ Langdon DeWitt elected as 1st selectman
        ▪ Emerging community leader
        ▪ ICDC board member
      ▪ Select board – posted the minutes for the 1st time
  o Deer
    ▪ Similar issues – ½ island is a national park
    ▪ Not open to deer hunting
    ▪ Tick issues
• Fire Department
  o Voted in a new person as fire chief – new to island
• Brought a child
• Moving into the affordable home vacated by a young couple
  o Had a fire several years ago, with some issues, the fire was put out
• Alternative energy
  o Interested in Matinicus project and learning more
  o Issue of people going off grid, but electric co-op needs customers – a struggle on island

Islesboro – Arch Gillies
• Filling in for Craig Olson
• Asked about the planned Searsport natural energy – liquid propane gas
  o Tankers in Penobscot Bay will affect tourism, sailing, lobstering
  o Concerns over area closures as deliveries are made
  o It appears the project is obtaining state and federal approvals without conversations with local town officials
  o Olympia Snowe is helping – asked Army Corps to slow down for an Environmental Impact Study
• Comments - Chuck Kruger
  ▪ Has heard about it
  ▪ Not aware it is before the Energy Committee
  ▪ Federal approvals
  ▪ Board of Environmental Protection would have approval over some parts
  ▪ Army Corps has generally asked for advice from state marine agencies
  ▪ While the it is early in the process it seems to be on the fast track
• Comments - Lisa Shields
  ▪ Concerns over light pollution and size
• Conversation
  ▪ LNG studies exist from previous attempts at installing an LNG facility – will they be helpful (Bev Johnson)
  ▪ Islesboro – Steve Miller, Islesboro Island Trust opposed past development (Arch Gilles)
  ▪ Need to raise $ to pay legal cost (Arch Gilles)
  ▪ Selectman voted to work on this issue (Arch Gilles)
  ▪ Looking for support from islands and mid-coast (Arch Gilles)
• Town Meeting 5/12
  o The big issue will be the deer reduction plan
    ▪ Town will vote on elements of the hunt
    ▪ 27 cases of Lyme
    ▪ Have had state staff out to look at the issue
• Islesboro Town Site has lots of deer tick information
Updates on programs and issues

SHIP** (Small Harbor Improvement Program) – Nick Battista
- Letters of intent due today
  - Basically the letter is simple stating who you are and what you want to do
  - SHIP run by DOT – now has funding
  - Grants of $7,500 up to $140,000 – require a 20% match min
  - Wharf, pier work to improve infrastructure on municipal property
  - Amanda LaBelle, Marine Programs Associate, can with applications

Proposed Bond – Life Flight, Land for Maine’s Future*
- Each piece is being voted on separately – likely the vote will be 5/15/12
- LMF – WWAP should get 20% - not set out but that is the historical precedent
- There is money in the bond package to upgrade Life Flight services, especially related to Monhegan and Vinalhaven

Fisheries Update – Nick Battista
- Shrimp fishery management issues – fishery closed early this year
  - State working to address the management issues
  - We may see changes in entry and licensing – may limit access
- Lobster
  - Shedders have been seen in mid-April
  - Water is reported as warmer than in past years
  - Don’t know what this means moving forward
  - DMR looking at licensing system
    - Move wait list
    - RFP for looking at the management
- Island Limited entry program (ILE)
  - 4 islands have completed referendum
    - 3 passed: Cliff, Chebeague, Cranberry Isles
      - Cranberry Isles: 23 licenses
      - Cliff: 12 licenses
      - Chebeague: 31 licenses
    - 1 did not pass: Swan’s Island - they will now have to wait 24 months – from Jan. 2011 – to go back to referendum if they so choose.
  - DMR working with us on the program and communication
  - Monhegan: currently 17 licenses (though not set through ILE)
• Community Fisheries Network
  o Funding to bring people together from small communities across the county
  o Focus on:
    ▪ Marketing and seafood distribution
    ▪ Business planning
  o Would like to work with Lobster co-ops in Maine
  o Current Maine participants include:
    • Port Clyde
    • Pen Bay East
    • CIML

Offshore Wind Update – Suzanne MacDonald
  o Materials on-line –
    ▪ http://www.islandinstitute.org/offshorewindenergyfactsheets.php
  o Statoil Lease Application Area
    ▪ Location off Boothbay – 12 miles off Boothbay and Monhegan
  o Federal process for lease process - 3 – 4 years
    ▪ Baseline environmental surveys now
    ▪ 2014 – decision around moving forward
    ▪ 2016 – if yes, begin construction process
  o 4 floating turbines
  o 12 megawatts of power
  o Fisheries team working with local fishermen around concerns
    ▪ Statoil meeting with MLA and other groups
  o While the project is years away – it could scale up

Energy Updates – Suzanne MacDonald
  o Island Energy Conference –
    ▪ Friday, November 2nd
    ▪ More focus on residential work and helping home owners identify efficiencies and programs

Solar Purchase Agreement (PPA) programs – Suzanne MacDonald
  o Financing Mechanism – NY Times article
  o Lease roof space
  o Some work with Non-profits – Revision Energy is a Maine company that is working through this
    ▪ All island energy co-ops non-profit
- Co-op can generate with solar
- We are working on Star Island, Isles of Shoal – working on this to reduce current diesel-generated costs of $0.74/kWh

New Efficiency Maine Residential – Suzanne MacDonald
- BDN article
- Energy audit – coincide with having some basic air sealing and insulation being done
  - If you qualify, upon have an audit, which you pay for, you receive 6 hours of basic weatherization work – free –
  - You have the audit, by a certified auditor, and Efficiency Maine pays for the weatherization work
  - Keith McPherson – worked in Unity to bundle the jobs to keep costs low – use as a model to look at how to leverage this program in island communities

Energy for ME Competition – Suzanne MacDonald
- Energy Fair last week
- Community energy competition – to be the most energy efficient school on the coast – middle school
- [http://www.islandinstitute.org/energyforme.php](http://www.islandinstitute.org/energyforme.php)

Question – off peak usage – Mark Greene –
- Supply & demand is the key, looking at deals to secure off-peak rates
- Smart grid technology makes this assessment around off-peak and pricing easier
- Co-ops might be able to offer this – this is a conversation that we are just beginning
- Madison Electric Power Company – are engaged in this – see [http://www.madelec.net/ets](http://www.madelec.net/ets)

Island Institute Strategic Plan Update – Heather Deese
The Island Institute undergoes a strategic planning process every 3 years
- We are now half-way through the current plan
- The current plan focuses on strong schools, leadership & economic development
- We are beginning to launch the new planning process
  - Island visits - a focus on the outer islands this time around
    - Learn the challenges
Asking the MIC to help us think through how to make outreach
- Identify 1 – 2 islanders who are not involved
- Programs team worked to map out events and outreach
- Outreach calls
- Time frame
  - Plan/calls in summer 2012
  - Visits outreach fall 2012
  - Winter Board review and planning, final plan produced 2012-13
  - Spring 2013, final plan approved by the board
  - New plan for July 1, 2013

Sustainable Island Living Update – Mary Terry
- The date of the 2012 Sustainable Island Living Conference is November 2, 3 & 4, 2012
- The SIL Conference theme is empowering local leaders and communities. As in the past, the goal of SIL is to convene islanders from along the Maine coast and beyond for engaging conversations on issues related to island sustainability and strength

Leadership Program Update – ISLE – Mary Terry
- Island Sustainability through Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ISLE) is a new, year-long intensive program
- Provides hands-on training in leadership, advocacy and entrepreneurship to 20 existing and emerging leaders from 10 of Maine’s remote year-round island communities
- ISLE participants are building and practicing new skills while making connections with other islanders
- They are developing viable social-change business plans and putting them into practice with the help of mentors
- The first cohort graduates May 20, 2012
- The second cohort will be recruited over the summer and into the fall of 2012 for a late fall start.

Group Discussion:

Candidate Forum Plans – group discussion
- MIC representatives discussed hosting a candidate’s forum on Friday, August 24th at the Camden Hills High School. The discussion included:
  - Should we broaden it beyond a forum for the Senate seat
One Maine – Dennis Damon – try to find candidates who will agree to talk across the aisle –
  ▪ How do you plan to work collaboratively with the entire legislature to move things forward
Need a broad conversation – Dennis Damon
Focus on state elections
  ▪ Invite congressional candidates
• It was decided that hosting a forum is central to the work of MIC
  o Combine the state and federal level – solutions differ in terms of scale but similar in terms of what to address
    ▪ It was agreed to include state and federal races
    ▪ This is a forum to discuss island and remote coastal issues
    ▪ It is our chance to influence issues, to be the 1st to raise issues to candidates –
    ▪ late August is a good time
Get the date out now
MIC reps Commit to attend and bring people
Broadcast the event to Island schools through the Tandberg
Move forward – August 24th

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be August 24, 2012

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary K. Terry
Community Development Director
May, 2012

**http://www.maine.gov/mdot/pga/qcp/ship/