MIC Meeting
Final Minutes
November 16, 2012
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Lighthouse Museum, Rockland, Maine

Attendees:

Roger Berle, Cliff Island
Alden Finney, Great Diamond Island
Ellen Mahoney, Peaks Island
Cheryl Crowley, Cliff Island
Sandy Oliver, Islesboro
Duncan Bond, Frenchboro
Marjorie Stratton, Vinalhaven
Erin Crowley, Long Island
Mark Greene, Long Island
Beverly Johnson, Chebeague Island
Rudy Graf, Isle au Haut
Eva Murray, Matinicus
Lisa Shields, North Haven
Donna Weigle, Swan’s Island
Heather Deese, Island Institute
Caitlin Cleaver, Island Institute
Rob Snyder, Island Institute (via Skype)

Legislators/Officials:

Roger Moody, Knox County Commissioner
Rep. Jethro Pease, House District 44
Rep. Brian Hubbell, House District 35
Rep. Chuck Kruger, House District 48
Rep. Mick Devin, House District 51
Sen. Richard Woodbury, Senate District 11
Sen. Brian Langley, Senate District 28
Sen. Ed Mazurek, Senate District 22

MIC Business:

- We have not yet set 2013 meeting dates.
  - The January/February/March 2013 meeting will be in Augusta.
- Treasurer’s Report:
  - All the islands have paid their MIC dues.
  - The Treasurer’s Report was unanimously accepted.
August 2012 Meeting Minutes:
  o The August 2012 Meeting Minutes were unanimously accepted, with the addition of North Haven’s emailed island update.

Island Institute Strategic Planning Process Background:

• Background: The Island Institute is in process of developing a strategic plan to guide the organization over the next three years.
  o Staff members are gathering information from various places:
    ▪ Community meetings on as many islands as possible – 10 to date, 3 more scheduled and 2 more to schedule;
    ▪ Individual interviews of island residents;
    ▪ Island Institute membership survey.
  o There will be a Board of Trustees’ discussion this winter; the strategic plan will be implemented in July 2013.
• Three themes emerged from the last strategic planning process:
  o Economic development;
  o Leadership;
  o Strong schools.
• In response, the Island Institute did the following:
  o It grew the scholarship program and started an internship program.
  o The Energy for Me Program was instituted on islands with high schools and on 7 mainland high schools.
    ▪ It focuses on energy efficiency, educating students about how they can conserve energy in their schools and communities. Some school groups have made recommendations to their school boards.
  o STORMS is a continuation of WeatherBlur. An advisory meeting has been held to discuss the next stage of this project.
    ▪ It brings fishermen and researchers and their data into the classroom for grades K-8. They have been calling in with wind speed, wave height and other pertinent data that students use in the project.
  o The ISLE (Island Sustainability through Leadership and Entrepreneurship) Program was founded.
    ▪ The first cohort graduated 24 people in May 2012.
    ▪ The second cohort begins the week after Thanksgiving 2012.
    • Enrollment in the second cohort includes individuals from Chebeague, North Haven, Long, Islesboro, Isle au Haut, Vinalhaven, Matinicus, Monhegan, Peaks, Islesford and Swan’s.
  o The ICIF (Island & Coastal Innovation Fund) makes funds available to island and coastal entrepreneurs.
    ▪ There have not been as many proposals from island businesses as from coastal mainland businesses. Overall, there’s been a lot of interest and the Island Institute has identified business mentors. However, only a handful of individuals have moved through the application process.
    ▪ The Institute has set aside a portion of the fund specifically for island businesses.
• There is a total of $700,000 in the fund and some is invested, but it’s a revolving loan fund.
• The focus is on funding the first stage of a project that would normally have family or friends investing.
• If you know people who might be interested, please have them get in touch with us.

• Programmatic focus is on:
  o Marine/fisheries
  o Island Fellows
  o Education
  o Energy
    ▪ The energy program has expanded beyond Fox Island Wind.
    ▪ We followed the lead of Vinalhaven with weatherization work in homes.
    ▪ Maine and southern New England islands were represented at the 2012 Island Energy Conference.

**Island Institute Strategic Planning Discussion**

We are committed to sharing ideas, concerns, and suggestions on what to do (and what to do better) with respect to MIC and the communities we serve.

• Minutes from each community meeting held by the Institute for this process will be made publicly available.

• Common themes emerged from the interviews and meetings.
  o There are issues around jobs, work force housing, elder care, school enrollment and high speed internet connectivity (practical things that could make a difference).
  o The quality of the education and programming are considered good.
  o Conversations are very different now than they were 3-6 years ago. At that time there was ambivalence towards to the Island Institute; now we’re getting constructive feedback.

• **Improving communication from the Institute and sharing inter-island news:**
  o We need to do a better job disseminating information on Island Institute programming.
    ▪ It was felt that there should be dedicated space in the WWF every month, specifically for Island Institute content.
  o MIC would benefit from a summary of the minutes without having to go through the long version.
    ▪ It was asked if we would consider including an inter-island insert in the WWF.
  o It was suggested that selectmen from each island should receive a hard copy summary of the inter-island news and MIC minutes.
  o A quarterly or executive summary and a call to action on legislative issues that are important should be circulated.
  o A complaint about the WWF was that although stories are good, they’re not interesting to each island. If something was compelling and addressed all of us, people would start to pay attention.
- It was suggested that the Island Institute develop a community website and a shorter version of the MIC minutes focused on legislative action, legislator interaction and issues shared across the islands.

- **Island store issues:**
  - In a conference held 10 years ago, island store managers shared ideas (sourcing, pricing, marketing, etc.). They need that support now (Cheryl).
  - They also need a list of store contacts on the other islands (Rudi).

- **Elder care and more interaction between Maine Sea Coast Mission and Island Institute**
  - Currently there is an elder care conference going on; two people from each island were invited.
  - This marks the 3rd year it has been sponsored by the Maine Seacoast Mission.
    - There is a clear division between those islands that have a facility, versus those that do not.
    - Vinalhaven, Chebeague, Swan’s and Islesboro all have assisted living facilities.
    - Frenchboro and Cliff don’t even know where to start in terms of establishing an assisted living facility.
    - How do you fund and structure an assisted living facility? There are a lot of commonalities.
    - Telemedicine was also mentioned. Only 2 islands have telemedicine units (Swan’s and Islesford). So many things can be done with those units.
    - At this conference, we assess what’s been accomplished what hasn’t been (caregiver burn out, available resources, etc.).
  - ISLE program:
    - Donna was given the opportunity to participate and learned so much from the program. “It’s helped me learn to be good at asking for money and gave me skills to talk with people about the business plan. Dennis Damon was great and made me realize I could ask!”
  - Elder care outreach on Swan’s Island:
    - The first thing we’re starting with is senior exercise.
    - The pieces of the puzzle will come together.
    - The elder advocate (Donna) is key, since she works to assemble a team to deal with care.
    - Donna will email the business plan to interested members.
  - There are pilot projects around the state, including one on community paramedicine in St. George. They are using EMTs at different levels as home healthcare providers – checking in on people, or even doing other pseudo-nursing type care where the infrastructure isn’t as solid.
    - Do they receive non-emergency care training as EMTs?
    - We might want to keep things we’re talking about here and let the paramedicine groups to talk to each other.
  - Aging in place is an ongoing concern.
    - Senior housing on Peaks includes 11 independent senior apartments. It is run by Volunteers of America.
• One woman from Cliff went to Chebeague and is now in the senior housing facility there.
• There is a model that is working.
• Enhanced communication between the Maine Sea Coast Mission and Island Institute would help share and clarify what each island is doing to address these issues.
  o A booklet with island profiles should be created.
• **Encourage people to hire/buy/support local:**
  o Every dollar spent on island helps support the local economy.
  o How can you educate the community that you can provide those services on island?
    ▪ There are issues with deadlines and island politics.
  o Not a lot of young people stay to apprentice with plumbers, electricians, etc.
    ▪ We should support island businesses that return calls – there’s a lot of internal tension.
    ▪ Swans, Peaks and Vinalhaven – what are the trades for men and women?
    ▪ Summer interns should be encouraged to return to the islands.
    ▪ There are a lot of college graduates working in carpentry, fishing, etc.
  o We need to share information about available services.
    ▪ Could we have an island directory of available services? We have seasonal residents who don’t know what we can offer.
      • The Casco Bay islands already have a directory.
      • A list also comes out every June on North Haven.
    ▪ Community discussion with summer people needs to happen, to talk about the economic impact of spending those dollars on island. This local revenue is what keeps people on the islands, kids in schools, etc.
    ▪ The Island Institute should convene a “buy local” campaign.
    ▪ Let’s pull the information together.
  o You need have to have contractors with insurance to work on projects with grant funding. You also need to know that the person is reliable.
  o Other ideas – contractors should be able to co-op to purchase insurance. Being able to subcontract is a different model.
    ▪ Would some of that be helpful? We should explore potential models.
    ▪ Multi-island trade might encourage young people to stay on island.
      • If something large like an inter-island job co-op were stable enough, it would help with the skill drain.
  o Smaller contractors on Chebeague are getting together to figure out how to tackle bigger jobs.
    ▪ Three contractors are working together to build a house on the island.
    ▪ It is not necessarily based on a lobster co-op model.
    ▪ This is a community of 50 people in the construction business.
      • It allows them to afford insurance and bonding. How could it be different than permit-banking? That is a good analogy.
  o ICIF has the ability to help bond a contractor or multiple contractors; a committee then makes the loan and investment decisions with the aid of outside advisors, Aaron Fuchs, and some Board members.
- Partnership with EMDC – If we work on that project together to provide assurance for the contractor, he would be able to get bonded.
- Very different projects are supported by ICIF.
- A Peaks resident got a loan from ICIF and he is selling wallets made out of reclaimed sailcloth.
  - He is a recent college graduate, and this is his first business. He had an advisory board within the community.

**Legislative check-ins** (8 legislators/decision-makers in attendance)

**Knox County Commissioner – Roger Moody**
- Roger’s background includes 10 years serving as Camden Town Manager, as well as employment with Camden National Bank. He now represents District 3, which includes most of the islands and Camden.
- He stated that the Maine Municipal Association has its own agenda, to hold legislators’ feet to the fire in terms of funding promises.
  - It is important to fund the jails and the 911 emergency response system.
  - He is currently Chair of the Midcoast Economic Development Commission.
    - It is a fairly new, reconfigured entity that focuses on fisheries, farming, and economic development along the Route 1 corridor and in downtown areas.
    - They are working to mobilize Maine and implement comprehensive economic development strategies, challenging businesses and employers to work together and share resources to reduce dependency on federal or outside funding.

**Representative Mick Devin, House District 51 – Monhegan**
- Mick is a Freshman legislator.
- He is a graduate of the US Naval Academy, and has worked on the water in Cobscook Bay and Damariscotta. He understands issues that surround working on the water.
- A marine biologist (and marine ecologist by training), he is currently the hatchery manager at the Darling Marine Center.
  - Mick served six years on the Sea Urchin Zone Council.
  - He is chair of the aquaculture and marine technology board for Maine Technology Institute, but may step down from this position.
- Mick is requesting to serve on Marine Resources Committee.
  - He hopes to use his background to help island and coastal communities.

**Senator Dick Woodbury, Senate District 11 – Chebeague and Long**
- Dick is serving his second term in the Senate.
  - He has mostly dealt with tax issues.
  - He served as chair of the Tax Committee and helped pass the current use tax credit for working waterfront preservation.
- He has no idea where he will be serving in the upcoming legislature. “My observation is that in each legislature, whether the power is on the left or the right, people figure out how to exercise their agenda in prospective ways.”
  - Current legislators will put their funding agenda to the future legislature.
With the current status of the budget, we can afford tax cuts. These cuts were scheduled to take effect in Jan. 2013, so it affects the incoming legislators. The current process has created a gap and perpetuates a need to act in a prospective way. This is challenging for arriving legislators.

There is a structural budget gap; we need to figure out how to work around it.

Senator Ed Mazurek, Senate District 22 – Vinalhaven, North Haven, and Matinicus
- Ed served four terms in the House, and is now in the Senate.
  - He has served on the Marine Resources and Transportation Committees, and worked hard for both.
  - Land for Maine’s Future bond funding is definitely important to working waterfronts.
  - Ed has been very active with the islands.
  - He feels it’s important to “keep the blue highway open and moving smoothly.”
- He has a new role in the Senate, but as with any legislature, it should go smoothly once everyone gets accustomed to what’s going on and figures out who is working with whom, etc.

Representative Chuck Kruger, House District 48 – Matinicus and Criehaven
- Chuck has served on the Marine Resources Committee the last few years.
- Committee decisions will be made next month.
- “I’m an island wannabe.”
- He feels that MIC is a helpful group and great communication device.
- If any issues come up that are of concern to the islands, he is happy to be a voice.

Senator Brian Langley, Senate District 28 – Swan’s, the Cranberries, Isle au Haut
- This is Brian’s third term; he served one term in the House and it’s his second term in the Senate.
- He has chaired the Education and Marine Resources Committees.
- He is a retired educator who taught culinary arts. His passion is technical education.
- Brian owned and operated his own restaurant, the Lobster Pot in downtown Ellsworth.
- He is very dedicated to working waterfronts and buying local seafood. He currently works with Vanderbilt University in developing a rural education outreach program.
  - They are using grant funds and trying to bring science into the classroom for 6-8th graders.
    - The project teaches chemistry live, via Skype.
    - He hopes to grow this model and encourage students to think about different career paths.
- “Island education issues are important to me and I recognize the importance of technology.”

Representative Brian Hubbell, House District 35 – Bar Harbor, Southwest Harbor, MDI, Cranberry Isles
- Brian served on the Mount Desert Island School Board; islands highlighted the relationship between community and education.
  - The MDI School Board includes three island school systems.
They have been able to avoid consolidation.

- He views schools as good models for what’s possible in education and as a way to understand what the stressors are.
- He hopes to be on the Education Committee.
  - A lot of good things are likely to happen through the Education Committee, and he would like to work in that direction.
  - Marine Resources are also important, and he is open-minded about what committee(s) to serve on.

**Representative Jethro Pease, House District 44 – Islesboro**

- Jethro was born in Rockland, and has lived in Lincolnville and Tenants Harbor.
- He is familiar with the coast and the islands.
- He served as County Commissioner for 4 years and also as Morrill’s Fire Chief. He states that he is to some degree fiscally conservative.
- “I’ll be there to do your work.”
- He recognizes that affordable housing is an important issue.
  - It wasn’t that long ago that people could live on islands cheaply.
  - People have been driven off of Islesboro because they couldn’t afford to live there any longer.

**Island Updates**

**Islesboro (Sandy Oliver):**

- Searsport tank:
  - The Good Harbor Report is an objective report on safety issues surrounding the project.
  - A group of Islesboro community members continue to talk to select boards in the coastal towns. There have also been a lot of email exchanges.
  - The Planning Board is scheduling a series of public meetings the week of November 26th.
    - They deemed the application complete.
  - Rep. Pease – The biggest concern is the Homeland Security component, as well as the Coast Guard. It’s in the Searsport Planning Board’s hands.
    - There is a mile radius around a vessel coming in and out.
    - What has to be moved? How will it affect lobstermen and draggers?
    - There are still too many unknowns.
- Schools:
  - A hefty number of magnet students have come to the island.
  - We are working to have the preschool up and running again.
- Deer:
  - Islesboro is having a deer reduction hunt from December 10th – Dec. 31st.
- Internet:
  - We are working to get high speed internet to all areas of the island.
- Transportation:
We would like to have one way ticket capacity. There are a lot of commuters who go one way on water taxi and then have a ferry one way. We’re not sure why we can’t have one way service.

Swan’s Island (Donna Weigle):

- Recycling:
  - Swan’s has a very active recycling committee. It is making final recommendations to the Board of Selectmen.
- School:
  - School has been very challenging this year. There are too many children, which is hard on the budget but good for the school.
- Transportation:
  - The roads (a combination of town and state) have been evaluated and are in bad shape.
  - Many repairs are needed, which will cost a lot of money. We are not sure where that will come from.
  - The ferry service offers a reduced rate ticket coming from the island only. It is the same price to take a bike off the ferry as it is to take a car.
- Deer:
  - We have hunting 12 months out of the year, 7 days per week.
  - Chuck from Maine Medical Center has been out to the island to do an educational program on Lyme disease. He also had his team out to collect blood samples from ticks to test for West Nile and other diseases.
- Electric Cooperative:
  - We no longer have alignment on the island; be prepared for long outages this winter.

Frenchboro (Duncan Bond):

- Transportation:
  - We received a SHIP Grant to rebuild the town wharf.
  - Senator Collins helped secure $1.2 million to rebuild the Frenchboro ferry pier.
- Population:
  - There are not enough people to do the necessary jobs.
- Deer:
  - Deer numbers are back up.
- Church/School:
  - There are continued disputes between the church and school.

Matinicus (Eva Murray):

- Population:
  - There are not enough people on the island; even more will be on the mainland for the winter.
- Transportation:
• The airstrip project is done.
  ▪ It is a 1,500 ft. airstrip.
  ▪ The woods were cut way back to enhance visibility and the surface was graded to allow for better drainage.
  ▪ There is no regular boat service to Matinicus.
  ▪ Flights are weather-dependent and expensive.

• School:
  o There are currently 4 students.
  o The Ed Tech is good.
  o All is well.

Vinalhaven (Marjorie Stratton):

• Communications:
  o Broadband capacity is increasing due to a Connect Maine grant.
  o We have a cell tower, but no companies want to put their equipment there, since it’s located on a private road and right of way easements are required for access.

• Government:
  o The town’s comprehensive plan has been revised with the help of Island Fellow Andy Dorr.
  o The community survey is completed, and we will start focus groups next. We hope to vote on it late in the summer 2013.

• Energy:
  o We have an active energy club. They have been proactive about getting grant funding through Efficiency Maine.
    ▪ Eight houses have been weatherized to date. We’re working on 12 more this year and will also do some in Spring 2013.
    ▪ The homeowner pays $100-200; the rest is covered by grants.
  o We’ve spent over $500,000 in legal fees and sound consultants to look at the wind power issue.
    ▪ It was a community project between North Haven and Vinalhaven.
    ▪ We have not been able to reap the rewards of what we’ve done because of the legal fees.

Long Island (Mark Greene):

• Community Center:
  o We are rebuilding our community center.

• Affordable Housing:
  o We are still on our quest to get our two rental houses built.
  o We had our first condo project go in; it has become our affordable housing with 3 rentals.
  o The demand for rental property is so high and it’s the only way to live on these islands.

• Deer:
  o To date in 2012, 40 people have been diagnosed with Lyme disease.
While hunting is limited to island residents and property owners, the State has allowed us an extended season thru March 30\textsuperscript{th}. They have also allowed bait stations with elevated hunting platforms to be erected for bow hunters. These may be used throughout the extended season.

- There has been some local resistance in opening up the season to hunters from other islands.

- **New Construction:**
  - Three new houses are under construction.
  - Two are being done by island builders.
  - A lot of people are working, but there is the same rush hour of folks coming off the morning ferry.
    - It would be good to collaborate with Cliff, Chebeague and Peaks to work on local services.

- **Town Government:**
  - Long Island Fellow Erin Crowley is working with the selectmen to design a position for a town administrator position and downtown revitalization. She just put together a survey. Erin is also working at the Fire Department, the transfer station and the school.

**Chebeague Island (Beverly Johnson):**

- **Island Fellow:**
  - Celia Whitehead is the new Island Fellow on Chebeague.
  - She is working on garden education in the schools and nutrition with the food prep person.
  - Celia is also compiling a database of island trees and community gardens. She will put this into lesson plans to share with everyone.

- **Non-Profit Status:**
  - We are converting from for-profit to non-profit, and it’s in the hands of the IRS.

- **Deer:**
  - Deer hunting is a problem on the island in terms of poaching. Game wardens recently scoured the island and confiscated some illegally taken deer.

- **Foxes:**
  - We are having a problem with foxes dying.
  - We would like to know what the sustainable levels are for deer and fox on the island, and have attempted to speak with state biologists about this.

- **Connectivity:**
  - We obtained a grant and finally have equipment installed on a building in Portland to make a DSL upgrade possible.

- **Childcare:**
  - The island childcare facility has extended its hours a few days a week, which has helped parents.

- **Transportation:**
  - The taxi is no longer in service, and that’s a problem.
  - Our road crew has done a great job on the roads.
  - We spent $300,000 on road repairs.
• The island is participating in the state’s “Yellow Dot Program.”
  o It’s a public safety program that aids emergency responders to any medical issues if the driver and/or passengers in a vehicle are unable to communicate following an automobile accident.
• Town Government:
  o There are several new employees at the town office; all is well.
  o There was over 90% turnout for the recent presidential election.
• Affordable Housing:
  o All our affordable housing units are full and include 4 students.
• Population:
  o We still need young people to come back to the island and have children.
• Assisted Living:
  o We only had 2 beds occupied this summer. Now the assisted living facility is completely full.
• Store:
  o On Wednesday the store is closed. However, the Community Center offers a free lunch of soup and coffee.
• Community:
  o The playground is being updated.
  o Resident Ray Hamilton will soon celebrate his 102nd birthday.

Isle au Haut (Rudy Graf):

• Deer:
  o We don’t have a hunting season.
  o There is no hunting allowed in the park or in town.
• Government:
  o The Comprehensive Plan finished.
    ▪ It passed unanimously at a recent Town meeting.
    ▪ The process took 5 years.
• Affordable Housing:
  o Current projects should be finished by January 2013.
  o We are looking to build a marketing plan.
    ▪ Where did other islands advertise?
    ▪ What success have they had?
  o Is there a pool of applicants from other islands where housing is not available?
  o We are interested in short-term as well as long-term rentals.
  o May we tap into the Island Fellows alumni pool as possible applicants?
• School:
  o There are currently 4 children enrolled in the school.
  o The Tandberg allows video conferencing with up to 5 other schools.
• Store:
  o The store is still a problem.
  o We are unsure if the church owns the store or not.
  o The store has extended winter hours; it is now open 2 hours per day, 5 days per week.
- It would be great to make contact with other island stores.

Community:
- A wedding was recently held on the island, and it was wonderful.
- The Lighthouse Inn has been purchased and will re-open as an inn.

Island Fellow:
- Megan Wibberly is our new Island Fellow, and she is learning about living on an island.

Cliff Island (Cheryl Crowley):

- Post Office:
  - The Post Office has been saved.
  - It was an 8 hour a day post office and they wanted to reduce it to 2-hours a day.
  - It’s now open 6 hours per day.

- Schools:
  - Tandberg:
    - Teachers use the Tandberg to brainstorm curriculum for social studies and science education.
    - The Tandberg plays a role in the Teachers Learning Collaborative.
    - It has also been used for book groups and video dance parties.
  - Field trips:
    - Cliff hosted the Fall student gathering.
    - Kids love the field trips.
    - The Casco Bay islands are doing something similar, with an event once or twice a year. Eventually students from those islands will go to school together.
    - Our Island Fellows help facilitate school outings.

- Store:
  - The store is seasonal, so most of the time we don’t have store access.
  - This makes it difficult to bring people into the community.

- Affordable Housing:
  - We are attempting to get through the paperwork of becoming a 501c3.
  - We would like to be able to house our teachers.

- Deer:
  - Cliff has had good support from City of Portland regarding the deer herd.
  - The herd is down to a manageable size; we no longer have a browse line that is visible from the water.

- Voting:
  - We no longer have a polling site on Cliff Island; people must go to the mainland to vote.
  - A community group is going to work on this.
  - We’re down to a 20% voting turnout, probably because we lack a polling site.

- Wharf:
  - We are watching repairs being made to the docks in Casco Bay, which are state owned.
  - Cliff is owned by the city of Portland and yet, its’ docks are falling into disrepair.
• Sustainable Living:
  o Our sustainable island living group is about to become a nonprofit.
  o It will allow the opportunity to combine commercial fishing and working waterfront preservation.
  o It will also help with gas, wharf and lobster landing capabilities.
  o Money will be available if someone wants to put the energy into that.
    ▪ Land for Maine’s Future might be a possible source of funding.

• Community:
  o A lobster boat sunk a week ago.
    ▪ Everyone turned out to be helpful.
  o A whale beached itself and died on the South side of the island two months ago. We’ve had that happen with a sea turtle as well.
  o There was a wedding held on the island this Fall.

• Sewer:
  o A lack of sewer leach field access is an issue for up to 30 homes in a concentrated part of the island, as those lots simply do not have space.
    ▪ The associated costs change depending on the various possible approaches.

• Population:
  o There are currently 3 toddlers on the island.

Great Diamond (Alden Finney):

• Solid Waste Removal:
  o Solid waste for all three Diamonds has to stay on the island.
  o The Town of Portland refuses to barge off our solid waste.
  o There is concern, since we are a fairly dense community and do not have a lot of open space.
  o From Betsy Weber via email:
    ▪ The City of Portland does not deal with solid waste (e.g., construction materials); this is handled by private contractors. However, the City does barge off trash and garbage weekly.

• The Inn:
  o Developers will be taking over the inn in March or April 2013.

• State Pier:
  o The State Pier services both Diamond Cove and Great Diamond.
  o An access road to the pier is a right of way on privately owned land.
    ▪ Island residents are prohibited from driving private vehicles across the right of way, as the developer has erected a fence.
    ▪ Fire trucks and utilities all have keys to the fence gate.
    ▪ The developers don’t want the bus to be on their private pier, but it’s a state pier.
  o From Betsy Weber (Great Diamond) via email:
    ▪ Diamond Cover is a "gated community," established by law (Island Institute was involved) which didn't allow homeowners to have private vehicles. Later the City Council rescinded that rule, stating that such
vehicles were prohibited from leaving their property/"going through the gate." This has little to do with the fence or roads on the public side of the island.

- The bus has every right to transport to the State pier on the public roads. Many years ago the owner of the Deering Estates, Noyes, gave a 40' right of way to the State - Port Authority. The present owners are trying to bully the islanders (all of us) into thinking they have control... it’s hogwash!

- Diamond’s Edge Restaurant:
  - The food was a lot better in 2012; however, we’re not sure how successful they were.
  - They are still holding a lot more functions.
  - There have been complaints about noise and breaking the covenants.
  - From Betsy Weber (Great Diamond) via email:
    - The restaurant’s present owners have opted not to return, citing homeowners’ rules as their problem. (It's obvious to all of us that they “lost their shirt” and I disagree that their food was good.) We anticipate new management and hope it will do better.

- Diamond Cove:
  - Their fresh water supply doesn’t have adequate flow.
  - It currently has half of the flow needed for fire hydrants.
  - It’s going to be a big expense if we have to redo it.
  - From Betsy Weber (Great Diamond) via email:
    - The Cove, since its start when the contractors accepted the infrastructure, has always had a serious issue. (I do appreciate Alden's concern about costing the present homeowners more money. I think the Inn should be the ones footing the bill.)

**Peaks (Ellen Mahoney):**

- Affordable Housing:
  - We received the first of our affordable homes last week; the second one arrived today.
  - The process began 7-8 years ago.
  - We own one house; the other is owned by Volunteers of America.
  - We have had applicants for 2 houses.

- Health Center:
  - The Health Center just found a new service provider.

- Childcare:
  - The childcare facility had to downsize its model last year to sustain itself.
  - They restructured and are now able to take kids aged 6 weeks to 10 years.
  - However, they are taking fewer children and now have a waiting list.

- School:
  - We will be graduating 10 students (all 5th graders) in June 2013, and only bringing in 2 new students.
  - We have 60 students enrolled in school now; it was 40-50.
● School staff largely live off-island and commute to the island to teach.
  ○ Some staff members (Ed. techs, custodians, leadership team) are living on-island.
  ○ 75% of teachers live off-island.
● Community:
  ○ The island is a calm place now and we’re starting to think about 10 years down the road.

**North Haven (Lisa Shields):**

● Transportation:
  ○ Last night we had a representative from the Maine DOT come out and talk about the bridge to the transfer station.
    ▪ The substructure is rated 2 out of 10, but there won’t be funding for improvements for the next 5 years.
    ▪ The project will be shelved; however, there’s a lot of traffic using the bridge.
    ▪ North Haven has ordered a new pump truck which will be over the current tonnage limit.
    ▪ There are also lead paint concerns with the bridge.
● School:
  ○ The school population is up slightly, and it looks to hold steady.
  ○ Pre-school funding was cut, but the community jumped in to support it.
● Affordable Housing:
  ○ Our affordable housing project was finished last summer.
  ○ Two families have moved in.
  ○ Lisa noted: “We bought our house in 1972 for $36,000. It’s now assessed at $425,000. However, taxes are also 10 times higher than they were in 1972.”
● Waterman’s Community Center:
  ○ All is going well.
● Historical Society
  ○ All is going well.
● Promotion:
  ○ Cecily Pingree and Jason Mann’s “Betting the Farm” sold out in NYC and has been a huge success.
● Community:
  ○ We had a 76% voter turnout for the 2012 presidential election.
● LPG:
  ○ There is concern about how the tank would affect ferry schedules.
● EMR Certification:
  ○ Seven residents from Vinalhaven and 7 from North Haven are taking an EMR course.
  ○ We already have several new emergency responders on Vinalhaven.
  ○ Teaching a class to train people as emergency responders benefits everyone; this course allowed people to take the first step into an entry level position.
● Deer:
  ○ Approximately 100 deer are taken off North Haven each season.
This does not keep up with population growth, since there are 400 born every year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Caitlin Cleaver
Policy Coordinator
November 16, 2012