Maine Islands Coalition Minutes  
Thursday, March 14, 2013  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Room 600, 6th Floor of the Cross Building  
Augusta, ME

Attendance:

Arch Gillies (Islesboro)  
Avery Day (Pierce Atwood, LLP)  
Bev Johnson (Chebeague)  
Bev Roxby (Frenchboro)  
Bob Earnest (Chebeague Island Community Association)  
Caitlin Cleaver (Marine Programs Associate, Island Institute)  
Catherine Richards (Isle au Haut Community Development Corporation)  
Cheryl Crowley (Cliff)  
Donna Weigle (Co-Chair, Swan’s)  
Ellen Mahoney (Peaks)  
Erin Crowley (Long)  
Eva Murray (Matinicus)  
Heather Deese (VP of Strategic Development, Island Institute)  
Representative Jethro Pease (R-Morrill, District 44)  
Kathy Warren (Vinalhaven)  
Liza Fleming-Ives (Genesis Community Loan Fund)  
Mark Greene (Long)  
Rick Rogers (Islesboro Affordable Property)  
Representative Brian Hubell (D-Bar Harbor, District 35)  
Representative Chuck Kruger (D-Thomaston, District 48)  
Representative Janice Cooper (D-Yarmouth, District 107)  
Representative Steve Moriarty (D-Cumberland, District 108)  
Senator Chris Johnson (D-Somerville, District 20)

MIC Business

• Minutes from November 2012 were unanimously approved.  
• Invoices for 2013 MIC dues have been sent to communities.  
• Rudy’s treasury report was unanimously approved.  
• Donna Weigle of Swan’s was elected as the new MIC Co-Chair.  
  o Roger Berle nominated Donna for the position and Ellen Mahoney seconded the nomination.  
• April 30th is the deadline for reauthorization of MIC representatives from the following communities:  
  o Chebeague  
  o The Cranberries  
  o Isle au Haut  
  o Swan’s

Island Institute Update: Strategic Plan & Policy

• Strategic plan update (Shey Conover)  
  o Five hundred islanders were interviewed throughout the strategic plan process.  
  o At the Board level, the goals developed are broad and overarching.  
  o The Board is considering the goals will provide guidance to the organization’s work for six years.  
    Work the organization does to meet those goals will be assessed on a three-year cycle.  
    ▪ This timeframe will hopefully be effective in meeting the needs of island communities.  
• Major themes arising from community meetings and interviews include:
Support economic resilience and growth.
- Lower and stabilize energy costs and increase energy efficiency.
- Identify individuals and businesses to diversify island economies.
- Focus on workforce development.
- Initiate and support branding efforts.

Attract young people and families to islands.
- Continue to support island schools.
- Increase broadband connectivity to support diversifying businesses.
- Support efforts to improve home-based health care and elder care.
- Continue support for rental opportunities on islands.

Encourage networking among island communities.
- Expand networking opportunities and community exchanges.
- Support the Island Institute’s Media Department to expand our online information systems.

Facilitate development of island leadership to support community aspirations.
- Serve as a resource for community discussions needed for economic growth.
- Extend the reach of leadership training to youth.
- Allocate resources to address immediate needs; make sure Island Institute programming is adaptive.

Next steps: Over the next three months, staff will identify three-year work plans with implementation of the first year beginning July 1, 2013.

Strategic Plan Discussion
- Arch Gillies, Islesboro: Is the Island Institute going to take a regional approach and consider coastal communities regarding the LPG proposal for Searsport?
  - In the strategic planning process, we tend to focus on island communities. When there are issues where it makes sense to expand our scope, we do extend partnerships to encompass regional efforts.
  - We determine the scale at which we should work and it’s different for each issue; for example, the strategy with groundfish was to maintain it as an option if the fishery comes back, but currently there is only one fisherman on an island.
- Kathy Warren, Vinalhaven: Has there been an assessment of the economic impact of island communities on the mainland?
  - Eva Murray, Matinicus: Knox County airport gets a lot of federal money because of Matinicus.
  - Ellen Mahoney, Peaks: There was an Island Institute Casco Bay economic impact report when the Institute took a neutral position on secession. They played the role of providing information for everyone.
  - Bev Roxby, Frenchboro: It would be interesting to know how much tourism traffic adds economic benefit.

Next steps for the strategic planning process:
- Once the Board approves the draft by vote, the plan will be finalized.
- Another round of community meetings will be scheduled to present what we did with strategic plan information gathered.
- We will also share the strategic plan through the Working Waterfront.

Discussion about improving communication between the Institute and the communities:
- The Institute would like to be better about one-on-one conversations.
- The Institute is evaluating effective communication methods for disseminating information.
  - One method to share information (programming, events) is to post it in island newsletters, etc.
- It is important to have Institute staff on the island and not necessarily just there to host or have a meeting, but attending and participating in community events. The relationships are key; having people show up and take the time for face-to-face interactions, and then the follow up with community notes.
- President-elect Rob Snyder has been helping with community forums and it’s been great.
- It’s always the same people who show up; how do you attract those people who don’t attend? What other communication tools can be used to get people to participate?
• Rudi Graf, Isle au Haut: Recent visits to Isle au Haut have broken down barriers and the weatherization work has been seen as a benefit; 8 houses on Isle au Haut are participating.
• Having an Island Fellow in place is extremely important. The service learning and value added aspects of the Fellowship are great. One great Fellow and that’s your ambassador.

**Policy Update**

- **Issues we continue to track include:**
  - Post offices: many island post offices were designated as part-time post offices and will operate 6 hours a day, 5 days a week.
  - Energy:
    - Energy efficiency and weatherization work:
      - We are having some luck pulling in foundation support. The cost of $600 per house is a high energy cost community component of the Efficiency Maine program, and we want that to remain in place. Logistical issues make it more expensive to do this work and because energy costs are so high, it’s important to do this work on the islands.
  - Renewables – We are making sure that regulations are in place now for community projects. We also want to make sure these considerations are in place within the broader regulations.
  - Education:
    - There was discussion regarding the implications of state budget decisions on municipal funding and education on the islands.
    - Kathy Warren, Vinalhaven: The Governor’s budget will gravely affect Vinalhaven and minimum receivers are always under attack.
  - Marine Resources:
    - Groundfish and cod fishery issues:
      - There was another cut in the allowable catch for cod due to a revision in the stock assessment. Fishing levels set were too high. We are working with the New England delegation to make sure the response is not to “catch the last fish.” The Institute owns two groundfish permits and we’re working to target Pollock and dogfish. We’re trying to figure out the most effective way to use our permit banks.
    - We’ve submitted comments on a working waterfront bill that could have implications for working waterfront preservation projects, as well as a bill that addresses zoning issues for working waterfronts.
    - Lobster issues:
      - The Island Limited Entry program remains intact.
      - Transitions to state marketing efforts are beneficial to the industry as a whole and to the islands in particular; the Institute testified in favor for the $3M pool to market Maine lobster.
      - There has been a series of conversations about changing the lobster licensing system; however, a bill will not be before the Legislature this year.
      - We are aware of the need to engage in climate change and ocean acidification.
      - We are exploring economic diversification options for fishermen, including ecotourism and aquaculture, as well as trying to understand how fishermen can take advantage of emerging species as climate change shifts species’ ranges.

- LPG Tank Proposal:
• Penobscot Bay Report: Institute staff worked with Sarah Curran from Planning Decisions to create an economic analysis of Penobscot Bay.
  • The impetus for this study was the LPG tank proposal in Searsport and wanting to assess what the Bay supports.
  • We are currently working on a strategy to share this information with the public.
• Arch Gillies, Islesboro: Lobstermen testified at the Searsport hearings and were concerned about the dredging that would have to take place. The last time it happened near Vinalhaven, it destroyed lobstering for 2-3 years.
  • Heather Deese, Island Institute: Dredging around the tank is one of the issues related to the proposed development that we’ve been paying attention to, as well as exclusion zones and conflict with fishing and ferries. The Institute decided not to take a strong stand on this because we asked people for their thoughts and heard there was a need for more information. We took a similar approach to our engagement in offshore wind energy proposals where again, it wasn’t clear which side we should be on, so we provided more information to the debate.
  • Mark Greene, Long Island: I commend the Institute for playing the fact-finding role; dangers of taking a political stand can have a lasting impact in communities.
• The Institute has hired Avery Day of Pierce Atwood, LLP, to help track daily happenings in Augusta.
  o Avery grew up on Vinalhaven. His parents live on Matinicus, and his grandfather grew up on Monhegan.
  o He was an Island Scholar, went to Washington, D.C., and worked for Senator Susan Collins in fisheries policy for four years. He also attended law school and is now working at the State House, lobbying.
  o Avery has been working with the Institute since January 2013.
  o Over 1/3 of the Maine State Legislature are freshman, so they get a lot of things thrown at them… if you’re here in Augusta, be prepared to explain your issue.
  o Note: If you have anything in particular that comes up, please don’t assume the Institute knows about it. Please let Heather, Shey, or other staff know. They will inform others within the organization and also let Avery know.

Panel on Island Affordable Housing Projects
Liza Fleming-Ives, Genesis Community Loan Fund:
• Genesis is a community development financial institution located in the Midcoast. However, they operate at the state level. The organization helps develop statewide community facilities and affordable housing by providing financing when other institutions are unable to do so.
• Genesis supports six island housing organizations.
• We have $10M to do this work. The funds were raised by the Treasury Department. About ¼ of our funding comes from institutions that provide investment loans to the Genesis funds; we re-lend that money throughout Maine.
• Island Institute and MIC pulled together at Maine Housing to call for a larger pool of flexible funds that island communities could use for small scale of projects appropriate for the islands.
  o A $50M bond passed in 2010 carved out $3M for affordable housing.
  o Eight island communities have or will benefit from these funds. All the funds in the first round are designated. There is still some bond funding available, so we are now looking to develop the next pipeline of projects.
• Rick Rogers, Islesboro Affordable Property:
  o Islesboro Affordable Property was incorporated in 1988, and almost immediately started building housing. We have built eight houses, all single-family homes.
  o We are interested in approximately 14 properties and we have approximately 30 acres of undeveloped land.
  o Our mission statement is to provide affordable housing to island residents that bring something to the island, essential to the sustainability of a year-round island community.
  o A couple things facilitated the most recent project. Our board, which is comprised of seven islanders and seven summer residents, presented this opportunity to the owners. We’ve decided to
follow the Dark Harbor model, a three bedroom and two bath home. It seems to fit a lot of people. We invited five contractors to bid on the project; my board put their trust in me to make decisions. I was the single point of contact for Genesis and Maine Housing and I just connected with Norm at Maine Housing, which cut down on the amount of time.

- The time between when we closed on funding and when people moved in was a matter of months.
  - Scope: Of the 14 houses – there are 40 people residing there, with 20 children. That represents 1 out of 15 people who live year round on the island; 1 out of 7 are children.
    - There is an absolute need to do what we do.
    - You have to be a year round resident to qualify.
    - The rest of the homes we have either built or bought.

- Bob Earnest, Chebeague Island Community Association:
  - The Association was started in 2004-2005.
  - Our mission is to provide year-round moderately priced housing, encouraging agriculture and local food sustainability on the island.
  - The Association inherited the affordable housing effort from Cumberland. They had done a survey to assess need.
    - A local contractor came to us and offered to sell his home at a very moderate price.
    - We obtained funding from Genesis.
    - Once our funding closed, I think we had people moving in 6-7 months later.
    - There was a lot of different input into the project – land from the town, money and in-kind from the community (landscaping, etc.).
    - We hired local contractors wherever possible.
    - Adults in both families are employed with island jobs.

- Catherine Richards, Isle au Haut Community Development Corporation:
  - ICDC is located on Isle au Haut and was incorporated in 1990.
  - It provides assisted housing opportunities for year-round and moderate income residents and works to support the public schools.
  - The micro loan program started in 1994 and provides working capital for island businesses. There is close to $70,000 in that fund.
  - A current island resident had a lot of foresight and applied for a community block grant, which allowed us to purchase three houses.
    - These houses have allowed us to bring in island leaders.
    - Two original houses are ICDC rentals; one has been purchased by a renter.
    - We are working to increase the year-round population since the number has been steadily dwindling – there are 50 year-round and declining school-age children.
    - We’re in the process of building the affordable housing, and are really working hard to emotionally sustain the community and what will keep Isle au Haut vibrant. It’s a much harder task in terms of looking for new residents to come live on island.
    - Partnerships that have helped us proceed include:
      - Island Institute, Genesis Fund, and Maine Housing – they have thoughtfully led us through the process, and have been super responsive.
      - Engaging in a project like this has allowed us to leverage some of those Maine State Housing funds. Basically, it meant that we were partnering in a lot of different ways; e.g., working with architects, and having a seasonal resident who did blueprints for free.
      - Private foundations allowed us to leverage.
      - Genesis Fund created a bridge loan prior to the close with Maine State Housing so we could start our project.
      - Job creation – the actual contractor is from Deer Isle, but in small ways islanders have been employed with excavation.
      - Impact of the project – we are adding two houses. Bringing two more families would be huge for this already small year-round community. Having people in those homes would mean less burnout for the school. It can’t operate without students and there has been some jeopardy for the funding.
    - The Efficiency Maine project has been huge. It provided a lot of vital support for Isle au Haut residents to reduce really high energy costs.
Weatherization week was a success, and there is more opportunity for weatherization work.

In terms of ICDC, two new houses are energy efficient and the three houses built in the past are energy efficient.

The community is appreciative and better informed.

It would be great for Efficiency Maine to fund efficiency work at the Isle au Haut town hall.

Efficiency Maine and Affordable Housing programs are great.
  o Collaboration and partnering with all the organizations are keys to the success of this work.
  o The have been no other opportunities for island communities.
  o Bond funding has been key!
  o There are 20 affordable housing units available.

**Legislative Updates**

**Rep. Steve Moriarty, represents Chebeague Island and Long Island:**
- I am trying to amend legislation so that Chebeague can create a transit district. We thought we had an agreement, but Chebeague elected to withdrawal.

**Rep. Mick Devin, represents Monhegan:**
- I sit on the Marine Resources Committee.
- I am supportive of the lobster fishery sustainability certification, although have had concerns around the sustainability of bait.
- I am very much in support of local control, based on the fact that there are very different ecological regions along the coast. We need to manage those resources on as local a level as possible.

**Peter Stuckey, represents the Portland islands:**
- I am on my third term and the learning curve is so steep.
- On the micro level, I’m working on Circuit Breaker program. I have a bill in that would restore the program with its original intent, which was higher income and higher rebate.
  o This helps mitigate the rise in property taxes.
- I am working on a Macro level on the Health and Human Services Committee.
  o There are cuts that were proposed in the supplemental budget – we’re only at the beginning.
  o I worry that we won’t be able to deal with what’s proposed until we have a frank discussion about revenues.
    - Cuts to the Circuit Breaker and the Homestead programs, GPA, but then not touching the tax cuts that were in this year’s budget and go into effect.
  o The tax expenditures (credits or cuts) report lists all the sales and revenues in the state of Maine. It comes out every 2 years and is over $6B; taxing the most vulnerable people in our state.
  o We haven’t provided the services we said we would – but there are a lot of issues.

**Sen. Chris Johnson, represents Senate District 20:**
- I was on Monhegan for graduation in 2012, and enjoyed seeing the culture there.
- There are a number of things in Marine Resources that will touch on the lobster industry.
- We are trying to increase marketing efforts by spending more money to market Maine lobster.
- Another way to promote lobster is awarding the MSC sustainability certification – we can now use that certification in lieu of having a brand.
- There are a lot of big issues that the Legislature is dealing with in terms of the budget.
  o Appropriations – There’s an impact to revenue sharing as regards to education. We need to evaluate what that will do to those communities. They provided powerful facts and figures... We need to consider other ways to raise revenue beyond property taxes.

**Rep. Jethro Pease, represents Appleton, Hope, Islesboro, Liberty, Lincolnville, Morrill and Searsmont:**
- I am trying to learn and am willing to listen.
- I made no promises otherwise.
Rep. Brian Hubbell, represents Bar Harbor, Cranberry Isles, Mount Desert (part) and Southwest Harbor:
– cares very deeply about education
  • Island schools serve as a model for state-wide education
  • Budget is on everyone’s mind
    o Any concerns about the budget

Rep. Janice Cooper, represents Yarmouth:
  • Chebeague children come to our high schools.
  • We would like to build social bridges.
  • There has been a breakdown of the ferry system.

Rep. Chuck Kruger, represents Owl’s Head, South Thomaston, St. George, Thomaston, Matinicus, and Criehaven:
  • We have several issues – a big one coming is a threat to the owner-operator condition of our lobster fishery.
    o The landing of dragged lobster as by-catch is an issue; there is a big debate coming – written and in-person testimony is needed from your community.
    o Work is being done on the St. Croix River to restore alewives – the peak population expectation is that we might be restore around 3 million fish. The St. Croix was the most abundant of the rivers historically.
    o The lobster industry would be a whole lot better if we could lift the boat price – we’re working on this (Chuck, Mick, Chris).
      ▪ The Legislature is spending some real money marketing lobster.
    o It will be a year before we can begin collecting lobster industry money.
    o Now is when we should be getting a marketing plan squared away and running.
      ▪ We report out both bills strongly from the committee.
      ▪ It starts with a strong committee report. I don’t know how active this group wants to be in lobbying legislators that don’t represent them.
      ▪ If you approach someone beyond your district – make the case about the importance of lobstering. Any other business would be putting a much larger cash flow into marketing the lobster industry than we are as a state into lobstering.
    o Governor LePage is very supportive of commercial fisheries.

Discussion with Legislators
  • Arch Gillies, Islesboro: LPG project for Searsport – largest export – we haven’t seen any LPG or energy related bills.
    o Chuck Kruger: I would like to hear what lobstersmen think about this issue.
      ▪ I would also like some facts, since I don’t know how disruptive this or the dredging issues will be to harbor operations.
    o Chris Johnson: I don’t think we’re going to see an LPG bill.
      ▪ The state DEP gave the applicant the permit.
      ▪ I haven’t seen anything in the Legislature.
      ▪ LPG is more volatile and dangerous than LNG, but it’s not covered by FERC.
  • Senator Justin Alfond, representing District 8 and Cliff Island:
    o Introduced a bond for 6.5M which includes:
      ▪ $5M to dredge Casco Bay
      ▪ $1.5M for the fish exchange (more cold storage, refrigerator to help all the fisheries)
    o He would like to know about any questions people may have.
    o Dick Woodbury, representing Chebeague and Long: The main issue is that Chebeague would like to replace their ferry.
    o Financing is the big hurdle. Can they apply for grants and loans?
    o If they reorganized as a transit district, they would be able to apply for funding. What kind of legislation would be necessary to accomplish this?
    o Input is needed from other islands. How you organize your transportation issues?
      ▪ Mark Greene: The poster child is Casco Bay Lines. It’s a nonprofit that works really well at no cost to the state; plus, we are eligible for funding.
• The State still takes care of the wharves, which is a huge bonus.
• Ridership for the ferry is one million people.
• Rick Rogers, Islesboro Affordable Property: Thanks to everyone who was involved in funding the island’s Affordable Housing initiative.
  o It’s amazing, the impact Affordable Housing funds have had on those communities.
• Ellen Mahoney, President of HomeStart on Peak’s:
  o We brought in 5 families this year.
  o There are 2nd to 5th generation Peak’s islanders.
    ▪ There are five adults, all employed on Peak’s; and seven students in our community.
    ▪ This influx in population has had a profound impact and has been an incredibly beneficial undertaking for our community, so thank you!
  o Libby Mitchell and Hannah Pingree spearheaded the effort.
    ▪ 20 houses were built in island communities.
• Liza Fleming Ives, Genesis Community Loan Fund:
  o We are working with eight island communities on projects using proceeds on the bond fund through Maine State Housing Authority – this will result in 20 houses being built from the $3M allocated.
  o We have a packet that summarizes the program and highlights the beneficiaries.
  o The scale of development is so appropriate for the island communities.
    ▪ Two or three units make a huge impact.
• Kathy Warren, Vinalhaven: We would like special education funding to remain where it is – 25% is not okay. There will be education testimony given in Augusta next Monday 5/18/13).
• Rudi Graf, Isle au Haut: Transportation Committee
  o Isle au Haut depends on a private ferry system. It’s the lifeline and its funding is crucial.
  o The federal government allocates funds to the State, which then decides where it goes. We’re grateful for how it’s been allocated to date.
• Catherine Richards, Isle au Haut Community Development Corporation:
  o Governor LePage is considering focusing on natural gas using Efficiency Maine funds. This is not very useful for islands.
• Eva Murray, Matinicus: All the issues could use help to dispel island stereotypes with the new legislators and inland communities.
  o There are regular middle class, year-round working families on these islands.
• Beverly Johnson, Chebeague: We all need high speed Internet, which would mean underwater cable installation.
  o The Internet has to happen. Often times, we’re the last people to get it.
  o Have you talked to Chellie Pingree’s office about this? There are federal grants to help finance such work.
  o The broadband task force convened this morning.
    ▪ The Institute is going to look into this and compared the situation with other rural communities.
    ▪ We need to understand the economic development implications of broadband coverage (or lack thereof).
    ▪ The economic development work force will meet on Mondays and Fridays.
      • There are 10 members from the House, and 5 from the Senate.
      • They will be working for eight weeks and will examine the skills gap. Maine workers all have the hard skills and the stackable certificates. We need to look ahead to ensure we have work force needs to meet rising demand.
      • In two weeks or so the task force will look at our economic hubs and downtowns, either islands or the mainland.
        • Our downtowns have survived the downturn.
    • The last piece will be about small businesses.
      o They will examine all the cost drivers to see what’s holding them back.
      o How can we help market our products better?
      o How can we get small business products outside of Maine?
      o Then we will have the ability to grow businesses.
Dick Woodbury: High speed internet access is a critical piece. There is clearly a foundation for having an effective economic potential.

Senator Chris Johnson: I recently met with the ME DOT and Turnpike Authority to discuss a bill. They are engaged in a study on “dig once” policy, in that if you’re re-doing roads you lay fiber. They are working with the ConnectME authority; ME DOT can’t spend a dollar on fiber.

- Someone else can provide the money and ME DOT will put it in the ground if they have the ground open.
- Leased out – that is the revenue that will go back in and fund the “dig once” policy.
- The whole purpose of the policy is to expand cable access statewide.
- Chebeague.net applied for some money.
  - We didn’t qualify for federal funding because we were within 10 miles of Portland.

Update on the LPG Tank Proposal
Arch Gillies, Islesboro:
- The proposed project is massive. So is the industrial transportation system that will support it.
- DCP applied for a permit to build the facility as an import facility, based on the assumption that Maine was lacking energy sources.
- This project has profound implications for Maine and is inherently a regional issue. It will affect everything in the Penobscot Bay region, including the island, fisheries, and summer tourism. The resulting economic impact will be substantial.
- The Islesboro Island Trust & Board of Selectman are trying to engage in the process and raising serious concerns about the project.
  - Their strategy is to request that the Army Corps of Engineers mandate an Environmental Impact Statement.
- The major concern surrounds the uncertainty about the exclusion zones around vessels carrying Liquefied Petroleum Gas.
  - What’s the time frame from the when the ship blows the whistle to signal leaving port to when it passing out of Penobscot Bay?
  - How many vessels per year will this impact? The Environmental Assessment claims six to eight vessels per year, but will this number increase?

Island Community Check-Ins
Swan’s (Donna Weigle):
- The tide is changing on Swan’s!
- The Town voted in support of single stream recycling on March 4th.
- We are currently educating 53 students in school system.
  - The annual budget is almost 1.2 million to educate those 53 students.
  - There is a lack of participation at the budget meetings; only five people attended the last budget meeting.
- Elder care efforts are making progress on Swan’s.
  - We are trying to bring out a Fellow to work on health and elder care on the island.
  - A nurse comes out and runs an exercise program. Five fishermen participate once a week for 16 weeks.
  - Donna gave an eldercare outreach program presentation at the Town Meeting.
    - She hopes her elder care project will create part-time jobs on the island.
    - The senior exercise class has been a great success and meets four times per week. (Mon.-Thurs.-Sat.-Sun.)

Chebeague (Beverly Johnson):
- Forty-two houses have been hooked up to broadband.
- A Sustainable Island Committee formed and has started to meet.
  - It evolved into a forum and we had 80-90 people attend the first meeting. Currently, we’re working on a vision statement for our community.
  - A number of young people are getting involved.
- We have four new families on the island.
• The assisted living facility is full.

Long (Mark Greene & Erin Crowley):
• The historical society is celebrating the 20th anniversary of the town’s creation.
• With the help of Genesis Community Fund, we were able to purchase a four-bedroom house to offer for affordable housing.
• We have submitted contracts for plowing and are currently trying to figure out to whom we should award the contract. There is a lot of interest.
• Casco Bay Lines has a new boat under construction.
• We are currently breaking ground on the community center.
• We have a new postmistress.

Peaks (Ellen Mahoney):
• All the affordable housing units are full.
• Residents from 50 houses have applied to the weatherization program.
• The school budget has been challenging. We’re losing a teacher, bringing us down to three teachers for 60 kids, a 1/20 ratio.
• Peaks needs a community center with fitness and maybe a pool; something for a social venture.

Cliff (Cheryl Crowley & Roger Berle)
• We’ve started a housing and business group called Sustainable Cliff Island.
• Our wharf is not in good shape. It is the only wharf in Casco Bay that is not owned by the State and instead, is owned by the City of Portland.
• We’ve had a lot of media around the schools and since have had 2,000 requests for learning more about living on Cliff.

Isle au Haut (Rudi Graf):
• ICDC is a very important organization on Isle au Haut.
• We have four children in the school.
• There’s a potluck tonight with Circus Smirkus.
• There’s been a free dental clinic.
• Residents from eight houses have signed up for the weatherization program.
• The lighthouse was sold to a summer resident and will open in June, providing employment to two people.
• Micro-loan program (ICDC) closed another loan to a fisherman last week.
• The island store is still an issue.
  o It would be very helpful to have a list of the island stores and contact information from current people running those stores, focusing on businesses that sell foodstuffs.
  o The store on Isle au Haut needs stronger governance and business planning.
  o Winter before last the store was only open a few days a week for a few hours. This winter it was open five days/week for two hours each time.
  o The major issue for the store is to break even.

Matinicus (Eva Murray):
• No news other than we’ve survived the winter!

Vinalhaven (Kathy Warren):
• We are continuing to work on the comprehensive plan.
  o Community forums were held throughout the winter on different sections of the plan.
• The Arc and the medical center have collaborated and applied for a community wellness Fellow who will work with elders, new mothers, etc.
• We are working on the school budget, which runs roughly $2.5M for 185 students.
• A new superintendent started in September and it seems to be going well.
• Renovations on the old fire hall are almost complete and it will house a public toilet.
Frenchboro (Bev Roxby):
- Seasonal residents continue to help with town roles.
- The school has seven students this year.
- There are ongoing tax issues with the church.
- The new teacher is good and we hope she stays on.
- The town wharf is being improved.
- Church steeple is damaged; recycling facility is damaged.
- A small group is looking into marketing nature cruises to go hike on the island for a day.
  - This may potentially work to start an artists’ retreat on the island.
- There is no general store on Frenchboro.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Caitlin Cleaver
Marine Programs Associate
3-14-2013

Draft minutes will posted at: http://www.islandinstitute.org/maine_islands_coalition.php