MIC Meeting-
August 7, 2015
10am-2pm
Island Institute, 4th Floor
Topic: Conserved Land on Islands

Attendees:
**MIC Members**
Roger Berle- Cliff Island
Donna Wiegle- Swan's Island
Beverly Johnson- Chebeague
Beverly Roxby- Frenchboro
Tom Powell- Cranberries
Cheryl Crowley- Cliff
Mary Ann Mitchell- Peaks
Cindy Gannon- Diamond Cove
Mark Greene- Long Island (Virtual)

**Legislature**
Emily Horton-Rep. Pingree’s Office
Jay McCreight- State Representative
Chris Rector- Senator King’s Office
Christine Burstein - State Representative

**Island Institute**
Karen Burns - Community Development
Julia Maher- Community Development
Rob Snyder- President
Bri Warner- Economic Development
Stephanie MacLagan- Economic Development
Brooks Winner- Community Energy
Harry Podosky- Community Energy
Kendra Jo Marsh- Islesboro Fellow
Shey Connover- Chief Operating Officer

**Visitors**
Andy Dorr- Town Manager- Vinalhaven
Marjorie Stratton- Town Manager- Chebeague
Linnell Mather- Executive Director Vinalhaven Land Trust
Tim McCreight- Guest of Jay McCreight
Keith Fletcher- Maine Coast Heritage Trust
Leila Bisharat- Chebeague and Cumberland Land Trust
Glenn Burdick- Monhegan Associates
Steve Miller- Islesboro Islands Trust
Ann Whitman, Peaks Island Land Preserve

**MIC Business:**
Roger Berle  Motion to accept minutes from last meeting as distributed. Motion was moved by Tom Powell and seconded by Donna Wiegle without additions or corrections.
Announcement: Donna Wiegle was selected as the Mount Desert Island YWCA Women of the Year. Nominations were open to any woman in Hancock county. Donna credits social media for helping her win. There will be an evening event at the Bar Harbor Golf Club in September to accept the award.

**Treasurer's Report:**
Roger presented the Treasurers Report on behalf of Rudi Graff, Treasurer.
2015 Assessments- 3 Islands are still missing: Long Island, North Haven, Diamond Island Association. When all assessments are in, MIC will have a positive balance.
Treasurer's report moved, seconded, and approved without additions or corrections.

**Island Institute Updates:** The Island Institute staff has many events happening. We appreciate all the help Islanders give us in helping plan and carry out events.

*Economic Development: presented by Bri Warner*
Aquaculture  Business support - We are going island to island to learn more about current and potential Aquaculture Business’
We have commissioned an island broadband feasibility study- not for Islesboro or GDI because they have done their own. Tilson Technology is conducting the study and just finished the first round of community meetings. They are now going into a second phase with box holder mailings. They decided for statistical reasons not to do just a small sample, but to survey everyone. Everyone will be getting a survey in their mailbox. Please respond and please encourage community members to do the same so that we can get a clear idea of what the community would like going forward. The final draft of the study is due in October and a final meeting will be held in November to go over findings and discuss opportunities going forward.

*Energy: presented by Brooks Winner*
Funding of Efficiency Maine bill was passed through legislature so funding cap was restored, allowing programing to go forward.
Every 3 years, Efficiency Maine comes up with a new plan and a rough budget. This process is happening now and the Island Institute is submitting comments and suggestions in the next week to align programing. The Island Institute Energy Team is in the process of planning long-term goals for their own efficiency programing in the next 5-10 years. They will be looking for input, especially at the Island Energy Conference. The Island Energy Conference is happening Nov 5th-7th in South Portland. Remote Community in Alaska is sending a representative to talk about energy systems being implemented out there.
Solar tax rebates are expiring at the end of 2016.
*Community Development: presented by Karen Burns*

We are at the time of Fellow transitions: 4 are leaving and 4 new Fellows are joining in September: Swan's Island, Vinalhaven, East Port, Frenchboro. 3 out of 4 transitioning Fellows are planning to stay and work in Maine, which is fantastic!

16 Island Scholar Interns are currently working on 9 different islands. Intern visits have been happening throughout the summer.

For the next iteration of our leadership programming, Community Development and Economic Development Programs are partnering to offer a non-profit leadership training in the winter. Please keep an eye out for applications and announcements.

*Marine Resources: presented by Shey Conover.*

A major work area is with partner organizations and legislators on developing next steps on the Ocean Acidification Commission report. They are developing concrete ways to move the work forward in understanding the impacts of Ocean Acidification on Maine's coast and economically important species.

Aquaculture grants are a multi pronged approach to support individuals in their exploration of aquaculture as a business, as well as studying how aquaculture can be used as OA remediation and incorporating it into schools through curriculum work.

There is a large interest in shellfish and seaweed aquaculture. All of this work is funded through private foundations.

Bev Roxby: Are we also looking at sea level rise?

Shey: The legislation to fund studies was vetoed at the state level. But there is interest in understanding the overall impact of sea level rise. Chebeague and Islesboro received a grant to look at their community vulnerability. We are interested in supporting community planning process, tracking ways the state and Federal governments are offering support to help the planning process, and implementing best practices and facilitating information sharing around the topic.

Searsport dredging Issue: Steve Miller from Islesboro Land Trust has been a major community leader in giving the island a voice in that issue. The Island Institute has attended meetings.

Steve Miller: There will be a public comment period during the hearing. Islesboro land trust will be actively involved. Maine Lobster Union has filed for intervener status.

Applications for this were due Friday August 7. Hearing will be in the fall. Opponents of the larger project are mostly supportive of maintenance dredging and pier dredging which will serve to meet the advertised goal of the project.

Next Spring (April): The Islesboro Land Trust is planning a Penobscot Watershed Conference- will not interfere with the Fisherman's Forum.

*Education: presented by Shey Conover*

Teaching and Learning Collaborative is doing an Island Tour to raise funds and awareness of the work the TLC does. Island Teachers Conference has been scheduled
for October 29th and 30th

**Legislative Updates:**

**Emily Horton- Representative Pingree’s Office:**
Rep. Pingree just returned from an informational gathering Ukraine visit. The office is returning focus to Lyme and tick surveillance and will hold a public meeting on North Haven in a couple weeks. The office is figuring out their role in Lyme and tick issues within the state.
Rep. Pingree introduced OA bill with 22 co-sponsors, with bi-partisan support at the end of the summer recess. They are currently brainstorming working waterfront legislation for the fall session. Working with Nick Batista from the Island Institute in crafting the legislation. Trying to define what working waterfronts are at the federal level and pushing federal agencies to recognize small working waterfronts.

**Chris Rector- Senator King's Office:**
Senator King is a co-sponsor of the community revitalization act. This is a voluntary designation for waterfront communities to upgrade infrastructure, preference on federal grants, and networking among waterfront communities.

**Rep. Jay McCreigh- Harpswell:**
Rep McCreight is currently serving on the Marine Resources and Judiciary Committee. She is working supporting Ocean Acidification and other bills around rockweed and what level it should be cut (or not cut) and the impact of hand vs. mechanical harvesting. Also dealing with clams and worms issue, which is huge and unresolved. She is also concerned with latency licensing and getting younger folks into the fishing industry. Bob Alley introduced a bill addressing lobster licensing that needs to be paired down, but will lead to interesting and important conversation. Tracking Aquaculture: LD 255, a bill that allows and specifies penalties for disturbing aquaculture. Before this bill, there were no consequences for disturbing aquaculture.

**Rep. Christine Burstine- Lincolnville**
Redistricting gave Islesboro to district 94. She is currently on the Health and Human Services Committee. Water Kuminga has a bill about Health Care on Islands. Christine is interested to talk about health care related issues, especially on islands. Her personal platform issues revolve around immigration and refugee populations. She would like to see more refugees settled in the Midcoast but wants to make sure there are resources to support those populations. Encourages people to come to talk to her about island issues. Also is really interested in expunging waste from legislation (such as concealed carry) and funneling it into practical solutions around health care issues.

**Keynote Topic: Conservation Land on Islands**

**Background from Roger Berle:**
Oceanside Conservation Trust in Casco Bay was accredited last week. Oceanside Trust,
as well as Chebeague and Cumberland Land Trust represent Southern Maine island conservation interests. Roger is the president of the Maine League of Conservation Voters (one of two Republicans on the board), they are working very hard to create a republican environmental conservation caucus in the house and senate. They are hoping to assemble in January. There is a 50-year history of land trust and land conservation initiatives along the Maine. Cliff Island is part of Portland and so isn't as impacted by this, but when land is taken off the tax roles it can present problems for island towns.

**Steve Miller: Islesboro Islands Trust- Islesboro-**

Land Conservation is becoming urgent as the globe is becoming impacted by human activity. There are fears that conversations around what lands to conserve revolve around human needs- ground water recharge, land use, etc.- rather than ecosystem preservation.

Steve passed around a map of conserved land on Islesboro that he asked not be published. There are agreements with some landowners on adjacent properties that Islesboro won't advertise or distribute the map and information about the preserved land.

State of Maine has a conservation easement (unknown if it is monitored- legacy piece with long standing history starting in the '70's) and they own 2 islands just off the coast: Flat island is a sea bird nesting island. The town has property on Meadow Pond, the only fresh water pond on the island to maintain access to the pond. Town owns 13 properties and has easements on 33 properties. There are 1115 acres in conservation, easement, or public holdings.

Management: One goal is to maintain trails for human use. It is useful to think about over domestication of land. Small concern about forest fires and the role the property plays in the risk. There is a general interest in cutting some of the older trees on the Islesboro Islands Trust land, which could be a fire hazard. They are approaching this conversation deliberately. There should be a thoughtful forest management and forestry plan for the land, but all interaction with the land, including cutting trees should be really considered before being undertaken. Steve sees the work of the Land Trust as preserving really wild land and not managing it for resources. It takes a lot of work to maintain seasonal stream crossings and trails. A well-maintained trail system helps mitigate the argument that the property is "just sitting there" and helps the land be seen in a better light. The community as a whole broadly supports Islesboro Islands Trust. Memberships range from $5 to $2000.

Donna W.: 25% of land on Swan's Island is in conservation, but doesn't have an island trust, or a locally controlling body. The town owns 80 acres, the rest is owned by Maine Coast Heritage Trust. What benefit is there to the more local control, vs. having an outside, larger organization having control over it?

Steve: Islesboro Land Trust formed when development threats on Spruce and Hutchins Island forced the issue. The land trust decided to continue to pay property taxes,
though it is enrolled in Open Space, so it is a smaller portion than a private land owner would pay, but they identified that continuing to contribute to the tax base is an important goal. The tax burden is built into the operating costs of the Trust, but it does mean that they need to fundraise. They pay $20,000 in taxes per year. This amount will be reduced next year as one large property was just enrolled in the open space program.

Bev Johnson (Chebeague): Is there an endowment to help cover the tax burden?

Steve: No, the trustees felt they could raise the funds to cover the costs. The organization is 30 years old this year, and they are working on building an endowment, but it isn’t a big focus.

Roger: Oceanside Conservation Trust has purposefully tried not to raise an endowment because having money could open them up to the greater possibility of litigation.

Bev (Frenchboro): Are there Grants involved?

Steve: No grants for operating costs, there have been grants for acquisitions. Grants can be helpful to generate enthusiasm for a protection project. In their bylaws, it states that at least half the trustees have to be year round residents. That community identity is built into the structure of their Trust.

Christine Burstein: How do you balance development and property tax burden with maintaining the ecosystems and environment of the island?

Steve: This is a complicated issue because there are so many factors that put stress on the affordability of year round communities. Property taxes are a small part of a large picture and need to be considered in the comprehensive planning process. When you have highly valued properties, it takes pressure off the more modest houses and mitigates the impact of land being taken out of the tax base.

Monhegan Associates: Glenn Burdick- Monhegan
Monhegan Associates started in the mid-1950’s. It is a non-profit, community centric land trust that owns 2/3rds of Monhegan. Its mission is multi pronged: community support, trail maintenance, and ecological preservation. Wildlands are the eastern half of the island encompassing cliffs, headlands and forest lands with 12,000 visitors using the 17 miles of island trails. They try to maintain as natural a state of the island as they can, very ecological centric. They don’t forest or log, but are addressing invasive plants. It is written into the charter that the trust will continue to pay taxes, which is currently 25% of their operating budget. The land trust was formed because of fear of over-development. In the last 10 years, they have become increasingly more proactive in maintaining the land that abuts the community land and being open to the diversification of land us. MISCA has an affordable housing initiative using small plots of land owned by the Monhegan
Associates, as well as the ball field, fire shed and other community-centric buildings. They are currently in an evaluation period - specifically around how they need to increase ecological management and how to continue to maintain the trails. There are 600 members and they are heavily volunteer-dependent for the work that gets done. Changing nature of tourism has changed the type of volunteers they get (shifting from month-long residents to week-long visitors). They put together a Monhegan forestry crew of young active folks who will work for an hourly wage to keep trails open and maintained. It offers a shoulder season employment opportunity. They are recommending a forestry manager be hired full time (10+ months). They are working on housing and trying to steward the land more actively. The more they can use the care of the land to promote employment that benefits both the land and the community - the better. So, they are working to use their resources in a way that supports everyone.

Roger: Casco Bay Islands have swimming deer. How did the Monhegan Associates fit into the process of eliminating deer on the island?

Glenn: Deer were introduced several decades ago as an experiment that failed, due to size and ecology of the island. The deer population grew to 45 in the square mile of the island, which made them too dense. They were denuding the forest lands and destroying the ecosystems. The tipping point was the increase of Lyme disease. The town voted to eradicate the deer with the help of the Maine Forestry Association. Monhegan Associates played a role as part of the community and recommended the rangers come out and eradicate the herd. The deer were living on the land trust land and so the land trust was supportive of the decision, though it wasn't unanimous.

_Cumberland and Chebeague Land Trust: Leila Bisharat_

Part of the Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative. Cumberland and Chebeague Land Trust is a collaborative. When Chebeague seceded from Cumberland, the land trust decided that it made sense to remain within the greater trust because of the learning opportunity, because of the small islands that are also part of the trust, and because it helps to share resources. Land under easement is a little over 3% of the acreage of the town of Chebeague. They also hold easements on other islands, but none with a year-round population. Easements are in critical points to provide waterfront access to all. There are maps on the web. There has been no pressure for it to be otherwise, they can be found at www.CCLTMaine.org. They are in the process of improving the website.

The character of the easements has included thinking about the nature of the community and the needs and ways people would be earning a living in the future: for example, Higgins Farm that includes waterfront and fishing access. They wanted to make sure that the land could always be used for agricultural pursuits. This is thanks to the donors- and expect for the case of 1- private individuals have donated them. The
land trust has stewardship teams assigned to each property. There is no management plans for town and land trust shared property. There should be one before long, but it needs action. There is a piece of property that was bought with the thought of having it available for affordable housing, but the cost of putting in infrastructure has made it not the most desirable spot. Working with the new town manager they are developing a town strategic plan. So, that property will have plans in place soon. There is a single aquifer on the island and so there is a growing awareness that they need to protect their aquifer. There has not been much development in the catchment area for the water source, so there is a new focus on how to maintain the resources - woodlands and open spaces managed to protect water and to bank land for the future. In terms of conservation areas taking from the local tax base, it is important to remember that there are real benefits that come to the tax base from having well cared for and well managed conservation areas, including hunting. It brings people to stay and live on the island year round because they appreciate the trails and life style it affords as well as the education opportunities the school can take advantage of. On Stockman Island, Ernie Burges noticed there were building supplies on an island that was supposed to be protected as a bird sanctuary. The man building had gotten a permit and gone through the proper channels but it was a mistake, a post it note had fallen to the floor and got left off the updated maps. They started calling people to raise the money to protect it. Now, Bev Johnson will be participating in a special study of the birds on Stockman Island.

Tom Powell: PILOT issues (payment in lieu of taxes). Have any of the land trusts taken this approach? 97% of Great Cranberry easement land is held privately because of fear of tax laws.

Linnell Mather, Vinalhaven Land Trust: Vinalhaven does that- they don’t’ pay the full amount of property taxes but they have a payment in lieu of taxes.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust did a survey of how taxes were handled. In its 2009 survey of land trusts, MCHT determined that most land trusts (73%) use more than one approach to property tax. Requesting tax-exempt status without payment or donations is the most common practice: 58%
Enroll in current use programs (open space, farmland, tree growth): 46%
Request tax exempt status, make payment in lieu of taxes: 31%
Pay full taxes : 27%
Request tax exempt status, make donation to town: 13%

Peaks Island Land Preserve: Ann Whitman
The Peaks Island Land Preserve came about when the WWII Battery Steele was for sale.
They raised $70,000 to purchase it, by calling every person in the phone book. They manage a 98-acre parcel, which is owned by City of Portland. They have a 9-member board. They work closely with City of Portland; taxes hasn't been an issue for them (PILP doesn't pay taxes).

They don't generally fundraise, and hold very little money. They have $20 dues, increased this year from the previous $15. They only fundraise for acquiring particular pieces of land. Acquired the ice-house pond in 2015, where the only fire hydrant on the back shore is located- servicing some high value homes. The dam on the pond is in danger of failing, and they brought engineering firms out to look at it. There is a slit problem, at it's deepest the pond is 3 feet because it is not a natural pond and has no natural outlet. It requires money and management.

Peaks Island Environmental Action Team, partnering with a local landscaper, is doing an invasive species inventory on the PILP properties with the hope of implementing a management plan.

Leila: The Peak's path seems to be turned inland, are there rights of way to give access to the shore? On Chebeague there has been a real effort by the town to mark the rights of way to the shore and make them known.

Ann: Rights of way are not marked on the map, but they do exist.

What is the different between conservation land and easement land- benefits?

Roger- Conservation Easements are forever- deed restrictions can be changed or broken, but not conservation easements.

On Cliff Island there are 425 acres, 25% are under conservation. 7 are easements and 3 more in development. There was a genesis of invasive species removal and management in Casco Bay starting about 25 years ago, which led to Casco Bay Invasive Species Network. This brought together all the efforts for species management and removal. There is 3/4-acre property with conservation easement requiring that October through May, fisherman on the island can haul boats and gear through that land. This has existed for 17 years.

Long Island, Mark Greene

Over 20% of Long Island is in Conservation, out of 800 acres on island. South Side Beach (Andrews Beach) was conserved while Long Island was under the city of Portland and locals didn't have much say. Fowler's beach was donated to the civic association, and is very well managed because of Oceanside Conservation Trust. These two pieces were so important to the community of Long Island there was no question.

The next acquisitions happened after Long Island became a town: 2/3 of Little Chebeague that is a state park, and the Wreck Cove property. No discussion about the tax implications when the properties were acquired. Biggest piece is 120 acres and is part of an old WW2 Navy base.

This was more controversial because of worry about contamination, management and liability. The Long Island Civic Association holds the conservation easement locally.
Other properties are outer islands that are owned by state for bird and animal sanctuaries. There are other lands available for conservation. The long island tax rate remains low, so taxes don’t enter the conversation where conservation lands are concerned. The rate of land development on the island is high so it is spurring people on to thinking about conserving land to conserve the nature of the island and community.

**Vinalhaven Land Trust, Linnell Mather:**
The Vinalhaven Land Trust (VLT) holds 30 parcels in fee and 40 parcels in conservation easements. Linnell is the new Executive Director. VLT makes payment in lieu of taxes. Last year, two large pieces were taken off the tax roll in one year. So, they are moving forward very carefully in adding more land. Tiptoe Mountain was generally believed to be owned by the town but was owned privately and open for use, so when it came on the market the town needed to buy it to maintain the trail. This caused some consternation among the town when they thought it was already town owned and it is now off the tax roll.

**Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Keith Fletcher**
MCHT is a state wide land trust and a Maine Land Trust Network service agency for land trusts in the state of Maine. It is 40 years old.
The tax issue is in the forefront of all their discussions. Recent legislations have made all land trust land tax exempt, but MCHT encourages land trusts to contribute toward the town. Land trusts don’t often get credit for their continued contributions toward town tax rolls: including economic draw, increase in adjacent property values, sustaining of ecosystem and wildlife. Think about how land trusts can be helpful, especially MCHT is very interested in helping communities.
They have fundraising expertise and some money (i.e. sometimes and for the right project they have small grants available)
When the land trust started, they were doing little projects and tax implications weren’t a big deal. However, after 40 years, the impact has started to become real. They really evaluate projects based on how much land is already conserved, community feeling around the proposed project, etc.
When they do a purchase, for example, $100,000, they do fundraising for property taxes to give $5,000 per year, which would cover the cost of the taxes at the time. But now, with increased land value and tax rates, that amount does not cover the amount of land in trust.
They recently had the opportunity to acquire a whole piece of land, but chose to keep just the trail that allowed public access to beach land so as not to remove the entire property from taxes.
MCHT raises the money for a project upfront and works out the budget. More land trusts will have to start working out budgets for how much new projects will cost.
There have been many interesting community projects where the community approached the land trust. For example, a local community garden and sledding hill. They are doing more than just setting land aside, but are really working on preserving the nature of communities.
If there is a violation in the terms of the land trust, Oceanside has people from many different islands. There is someone who can come in as a neutral voice to really arbitrate the issues. MCHT views it as a great responsibility to hold a conservation easement on a piece of property.

Island Check In's

Vinalhaven- Andy Dorr
Andy stepped into role as Town Manager after sudden resignation of new Town Manager who has only be in office for six month. They are working on the transfer of Light House to keep it open to the public. This summer, there has been lots of people visiting the island- business owners are reporting increased traffic. Downtown revitalization committee formed- working on capital improvements, infrastructure improvements, and broadband. Starting conversations to be really thoughtful about plans. School budget didn't pass first time around and the school is hiring 6 new teachers.

Swan's Island- Donna Wiegle
There was the 65th annual electric coop meeting on Swans’ Island, talking about dissolving electric coop and becoming residential customers of Emera Maine. Studies have shown that electric rates would drop in half. The Cranberry Isles are Emera Maine customers and have a much lower rate. The Swan’s Island Electric Co-op was a commercial customer of Emera Maine, and so everyone was paying commercial rates. Emera Maine has promised mainland rates, as well as eliminating overhead costs of Co-op. Dexter Lee made a speech against dissolving the coop. However, a straw poll had 90% vote in favor of dissolving the Co-op.
There is a new police presence on the island. The town dissolved Swan's Island police force after the chief moved to the mainland. They have contracted with Hancock County Sherriff’s office. The new sheriff has the whole network behind him. Shredders have arrived- finally! It was a late year.
The town needs a new ambulance; it has broken down twice returning from calls. Looking at fundraising options to buy a ‘new to the department’ ambulance. There was an emergency rescue on a boat with coast guard and life flight, with a lot of logistical coordination and they did a great job.
There have been 3 road projects in the last year- 2 completed this summer. There is lots of road debt, but the projects really needed to happen.
Municipal advisory council is moving in the direction of having a town manager- talks will start in the fall to present a plan to the town by the March town meeting 2016.
"Busy, busy, busy, but winter’s coming!"

Peaks Island  Mary Anne Mitchell
Incredibly busy summer. Peaks decided to hire a cadet to come to the island funded by businesses, private individuals and Peaks Island Council. Police have not been as engaged with the issues involved with 100's of people coming and going. It seems that the cadet is having some effect and is more visible and helpful on traffic and visitor
issues down front.

A new teaching principal was hired. The school numbers are down, 6 students not returning which leaves about 40 students in the school. Parents are nervous about kids having a peer group in their classes as the class sizes shrink. Historically this hasn't been as high a concern for Peaks as it is for other islands. The shrinking school population will hopefully move the affordable housing issue higher on the priority list for the island. There was a request for port-a-potties to be placed on the back shore. People are going to the bathroom on public lands. There is illegal camping and drinking parties that contribute to this problem. No port-a-potties have been voted on currently.

There is no money to plant street trees, but many of them need replanting. Peaks is also having issues with memorial benches which cost a lot of money and are placed on the back shore on conservation land. They are trying sell the idea to Portland that if they had families buy a memorial tree instead, it could honor the memory of someone and help replace the trees along the streets.

Peaks Island Land Preserve, Peaks Island Environmental Action Team and Lockhart gardens are sponsoring an Island Scholar Intern. PEAT and Lisa Lockhart are hoping to plant a garden on the hillside down front where she is currently removing invasives. Casco Bay Lines extended the age of children's tickets. Before, after 9 years old they needed an adult ticket, but Casco Bay Lines just raised the age to 13 years old. There is a Home Start- affordable housing proposal to build auxiliary units onto existing housing. This is not going to help with families because the proposed units are one or two bedroom. Median income is high, so rent for these units will be really high as well. How to monitor this and the questions are being asked about who will go around to make sure these units are still being used as year round affordable units?

Sewage treatment plant is at capacity and so that will have to expand to meet the increased demand for any increased new building.

There was a boat beached on backshore. The weather turned and the boat broke apart, scattering debris across the land causing a mess and environmental concerns. Portland says owner's responsibility but owner hasn't done anything at this time.

There is an issue with trash and debris, for example, freight shrink-wrap being left at or near the dock when freight is unwrapped and unloaded from Casco Bay Lines and will eventually end up in the water with wind and rain.

Peaks Island Council and the Peaks Environmental Action Team are working to educate people on how to interact with the environment and the island- please don't take rocks from the back shore, where the bathroom facilities are located, speed limits on island roads, etc. Currently, they hand out a brochure. They are approaching Casco Bay Lines about putting up a bulletin board to engage in educational effort before visitors get on the ferry.

Peaks Island council- Mary Anne's term is up on the council and she isn't planning to run again. People aren't stepping up to run in her place because of frustration with the issues the city is not addressing and other local issues. Portland has an app called 'Fix it Portland' which Mary Ann uses all the time. The info entered into the app goes right to the city department that is supposed to address the concern.
Long Island- Mark Greene

Long island is very glad they don’t have the day visitors and congestion that is on Peaks, but they worry at the increase, as well. They are "being loved to death". In the Real Estate market, the houses selling on Long Island, as well as the increase in building is going at an incredible rate. This growth comes with certain issues. It is easier to deal with these issues with local control, rather than trying to deal with a distant city council. The state beach can attract 100-150 day trippers per day, but with no facilities.

Report from the Town meeting-

In terms of electing a fire chief (which was a divisive issue) nothing was settled, but a new selectman was elected with a different point of view so hopefully the issues disappears quietly. Fire Department funding went through with no discussion. Voters were in a spending mood, 2 major road projects passed, 100,000 elevator for library and school to open up a basement space to use as a shelter, but also, hopefully, for telemedicine. Taxes are increasing by $.30 August 13.

Lobster Boat races happened and a 2nd weatherization week is underway for October. The broadband meeting last week that went very well. Things on Long Island remind him of the Working Waterfront article from Vinalhaven- "There's a lot going on here".

Great Diamond- Diamond Cove- Cindy Gannon

3 years ago a volunteer committee of year round islanders started to volunteer at Preble Street in Portland, which has been an enormous success. 20 regular volunteers that participate and they won volunteer of the year award. People who have different abilities have been able to volunteer and gain benefits. It has been a good community minded project. Islands are sometime seen as cash cows, and Portland is cash strapped. It is causing some tensions between island communities and the city. Great Diamond is overrun with visitors; there are not enough firemen. Portland cut the position that does the island training, so there is no presence of fire department unless there is a fire. Inn is partially open, hosting enormous weddings, and parties. Inn has filed to reduce or eliminate noise controls applicable in public spaces, which has mixed community support. Cindy does not have the new Internet system, but has heard mixed reviews about the performance.

Cranberry Isles- Tom Powell

Tilson Technology meeting has garnered lots of attention on both islands. Red Zone has started to be called 'Dead Zone' because of the lack of service. The Cranberry Isles are having severe ferry issues. Beal and Bunker’s main boat has been out of service all summer. The replacement boat has a capacity of 38, the other boat has less than that. Tourists have come out and not been able to get home; islanders have been stranded at the dock. They are no longer providing barging. Southwest boat carries 75 passengers, but stops in October. Beal & Bunker is having financial trouble. The ferry company has approached the town to see if they would want to buy the company, but the town can’t do anything without a town meeting to appropriate the funds. The companies that have looked at taking over the ferry service balks at the clearance at the docks at low tide. The Sunbeam can’t come in to Islesford at all, and
only come to GC at certain tides. Not yet at crisis, but approaching crisis levels. The Cranberry Isles do not have army corps harbors; the town maintains them. If Beal & Bunker continue to operate it won't be a problem, but the floats need to come out in the winter.

The Town office has to move, the building is no longer fit for habitation. One town employee was getting sick on a regular basis so code enforcement officer came out. They are moving to a temporary trailer near the fire station but without running water. They are getting a year round port-o-potty. They have to be out of current office by Sept 1st. They approached Tom to use the parsonage, but it is used as housing of last resort so it isn't ideal. They are looking at other options.

Great Cranberry School is behind schedule due to lead paint, cost over runs, etc. and an extra $40,000 was appropriated so the school will have lift and wooden siding. No one is sure how the school will fit in rotation with the Ashley Bryan School. There are 9 school-aged children on Great Cranberry and 5 on Islesford. The children are far more integrated than the adults, so there is a benefit to the kids going back and forth. Islesford isn't "over there" or "other" to the kids. If the integration could happen on Great Cranberry as well, that would be wonderful to break down the barriers of distance in building cohesive community. Completion of the space will provide good community year round space.

_Frenchboro- Bev Roxby_

There was successful annual meeting on June 24th. Some administrative changes happened. There is a new assistant town administrator, which will hopefully smooth out communication issues. The school budget passed and Lindsay Esynogle will continue as principal. The town and school are getting a new Island Institute Fellow, Zain. The current fellow, Luke, is leaving in September. One of the Fellow's tasks is to lay groundwork for the comprehensive plan.

New people have bought property in town, a semi retired oceanographer. Bev is hopeful this person can help drive economic diversification for Frenchboro. A fisherman has bought a home in town and will be able to get a license under the new open rules. He has 4 children, but kids are staying at MDI to go to school.

Jane Arbuckle MCHT came to Frenchboro to talk about how Frenchboro can use their conserved land and start building long term relationships. There is a Community Lobster Dinner to benefit the church (tomorrow, Saturday August 8th) with a Special Ferry. TLC will be out doing a presentation.

Lots of dogs on Frenchboro, it went from a totally non dog island to an island that may host a dog show in the near future.

_Cliff Island- Cheryl Crowley_

Sustainable Cliff Island is working with city of Portland to acquire a property that had been taken back for taxes. It includes a year round home, fuel depot, main dock to fishing community, and small store. DEP grant helped with clean up and they are getting new tanks. They are cleaning up the property with the help of the city. They are hoping to improve the wharf this fall and then will talk about the house.
More houses up are for sale and selling fast. It is a strong real estate market but mostly for seasonal residents.
The main store on the island is under new ownership bringing new energy to the island. Biggest challenge for the island store is the vendors not wanting to deal with island stores. USDA inspectors stopped shipments because food wasn't being held at the appropriate temperature for the entire trip. This is an issue that is impacting Cliff now, but will impact all stores eventually, as it is a growing issue.
Broadband discussion went really well. Better broadband will make a difference in telemedicine, commuting and education.

*Chebeague, Bev Johnson*
Chebeague has a new town administrator, Marjorie Stratton and a new superintendent, Mike Pulsifer. There are three or four new families, with 35 students at the school. The Island Council decided to close the island clinic without notice because the liability was too great. No answers as to exactly why. A Volunteer is now doing it out of her house to provide service for those who need it daily. She is fully licensed and insured. There is talk in town about moving the wharf and doing something with the land. There is a huge parking problem at the stone pier, where the CTC boat comes in. There is conversation about using part of the golf course to use as a parking lot. There is no taxi and no public transportation. More summer people are bringing their cars over. If there is a rental property, the property needs to have a car available to renters.

CTC is looking for a new boat- their current boat has been in service for 30 years. 240 customers on Chebeague are getting Fairpoint DSL; they got funding to run a cable to the island. Town wants to tap into this for bandwidth because they get their bandwidth from Portland. They just spent $40,000 to upgrade, so they are trying to get broadband from this line so as not to rely on the old microwave system currently in place.

Paper streets (streets that are deeded and on the maps but have never been developed) - need to be addressed before 2017. Every 10 years there is a deadline for municipalities to clear out the deeded streets on their books. Through this process, Donna Damon has been working to get as much public access to the ocean as possible. The land trust runs a lot of great programing both in the summer and with the schools during the year.