MIC Meeting
May 9, 2014
Island Institute
10:00-2:00

Attendance:
MIC Representatives
Tom Powell, Cranberry Isles
Herb Maine, Chebeague
Duncan Bond, Frenchboro
Alden Finney, Great Diamond Island
Roger Berle, Cliff Island
Cheryl Crowley, Cliff Island
Eva Murray, Matinicus
Donna Wiegel, Swan’s Island
Kathy Warren, Vinalhaven
Kendra Chubbuck, Isle Au Haut
Lisa Shields, North Haven
Mark Greene, Long Island
Mary Anne Mitchell, Peaks Island

II Staff
Karen Burns, Community Development Director
Shey Conover, VP of Operations
Rob Snyder, President
Brooks Winner, Community Energy Associate
Ben Odgren, Island Education Associate

EMS Representatives/Guests
Will Tierney, Long Island
Beth Putnam, Chebeague
Pat Lundholm, Vinalhaven
Cindy Gannon, Great Diamond Island
Charlie Wiegel, Swan’s Island
Katelyn Damon, Cranberry Isles
April Brown, North Haven
Steve Hansen, Ham Radio Association
John DeWitt, IAH

Legislative Representatives
Chris Rector, Senator King’s Office
Representative Chuck Kruger

Roger Berle called the meeting to order and began with introductions.
Housekeeping:
- Minutes from January meeting accepted

- Treasurer’s Report
  Roger turned in $1,700 in assessment payments to Eric Waters this morning. There are 4 islands that have not made payments thus far. With these payments, we will certainly be in the black. The four missing communities are Chebeague, Cranberry, Islesboro, and one other. Roger will check on the missing payments and follow up with the representatives.
  Roger motioned to approve financial report. Report was approved.

- Certificate of Recognition
  - The third MIC Certificate of Recognition was awarded to Pat Lundholm & Ted Johanson of Vinalhaven for extensive volunteerism.

Island Institute Updates:
Rob Snyder, President
- August 8th, 5PM or 6PM - On The Edge at Strand Theater
  Eva: fishing communities on Tangier island, and in Florida
  Asked to write a text that goes along with paintings
  Arts and advocacy project about advocating against island stereotypes
  Island Institute helped fund it
  Jeff Dobbs filming

- July 12th - Sustain ME Conference - working with Chebeague Island
  Daylong conference for anyone interested in models for developing businesses in remote locations
  Presenters from islands and beyond/across sectors
  “How to capitalize on remoteness”
  Keynote: Peter Nelson “The Treehouse Guy”

- Island Institute will be hiring an Economic Development Director

- The Ocean Acidification task force passed!
  Most supported piece of emergency legislation this year
  Task force meets over the fall, making legislative recommendation by closure in mid-December

- Brooks Winner, Community Energy update
  University of Maine’s collaborative with Aqua Ventus, was not funded at the full level. 3 million given
  Marion Choffee and Tara Hire have been the voices from Monhegan
  Still a big split on Monhegan about whether this project should go forward
Roger: Does that represent an opportunity for StatOil?
Brooks: StatOil probably won’t be coming back unless there is a change in state government.

-Roger asked about the BC fisherman’s meeting at the GMRI.

Rob explained that they were visiting to talk about ocean planning, which is ocean zoning, from the perspective of a community territory with regards to drilling/shipping/fishing, etc. Fishermen from British Columbia traveled up and down the coast and stayed on Vinalhaven for a night. They discussed how to deal with complex issues when it seems like an insurmountable task? Our work at the Island Institute is becoming oriented toward exchanges with small communities along the coast and elsewhere.

- Some questions were asked about lobstering settlement news
  Settlement data shows drops of young lobster in the past several years. It’s hard to predict but lobsters today are not where they have always been
  If drops in settlement continue, we should be concerned.
  One strategy is diversifying in shellfish and aqua culture.

Brooks Winner - Energy Update
Weatherization weeks will continue
  Heading to Matinicus and Islesford later this year and looking for coordination help organize.
  We received a grant from Efficiency Maine earlier in the year.
  New initiative: Collaborative Monster Course working with COA
  Taking group of islanders to Samso Island in Denmark
  8-week course afterwards with action plans

Rob Snyder-
We received a USDA, which in the press is mis-represented as tele-medicine grant. It’s a distance-learning technology grant for island and remote schools to update technology.

A question was raised about Searsport Dredging.
Rob: No new developments in the area. Seems to be that maintenance dredge is inevitable, but dumping ground is controversial.

Kathy Warren: Someone in area bringing up potential for the port? In a newscast or article.

Legislative Updates
Representative Chuck Kruger
There was a bi-partisan effort for jobs and development. A group of legislators went around the state, talked to employers, under-employed from Presque Isle to Wales to Kennebunk. They produced a good report, a good legislative work. It got no notice at all. “No controversy, no coverage” It is supposed to help match un-employed with jobs that are available. It will be on November ballot
Ocean Acidification bill was a highlight.

Chris Rector, Senator King’s Office
Announced that Vinalhaven got half million to improve electric grid from USDA.
Chris shared an Islesford experience: He went to honor Richard Alley, lifelong resident and, WW2 vet, who had never received his medals because records had been lost. Senator King’s office worked with his daughter to get the records- called as someone was looking through microfilm. Serendipity! Bureau of Veterans Affairs is looking to honor other vets, Peter Ogden is the contact. Get in touch if you know veterans from your islands!

Island Check-Ins later in the afternoon

**EMS and Fire Service Topics- Panel Discussion**

Format was to share challenges from islands and to talk through how islands working through these challenges.

**First topic: “Training time and investment”**
Pat Lundholm, Vinalhaven:
Training for advanced degrees is a challenge for every island
Working with April on North Haven with the State to get something on line for a basic class.
Location of training centers is difficult and exceptions are not made for islanders.
Debate on current hours 120/130/220 for basic training. The state is adopting national standards.
When an island sends 6 people to class, they may get 1 who ends up completing
Advanced training takes a lot of work.

Eva Murray, Matinicus: It’s hard to attend classes when transportation is out of their control.
Issues are that the courses can’t fully be online - must be in person.
20 day course: who wants to be away the whole time
Cost is also an issue, $3k, “Who is going to pay?”
Donna and Charlie Weigel, Swan’s Island - Charlie completed class, but it was a logistical nightmare. Took a hit to his finances to be away and miss work, even though the town paid for the course.

Eva Murray: Islands need to get together to make sure legislators/funders know that things need to be flexible. So few people request these exceptions to rule, that when islands do, they don’t allow it.

Kathy Warren: What is the agency you go to set up an island EMT org.?

Eva Murray: Agencies are worried about unlicensed people over-stepping their boundaries.

Pat Lundholm: Now that Maine is a National Registry state, we have to worry about standards. APEMS online training will happen later this year.

Donna Wiegel: Two paramedics in MDI region
   One does hours on Swan’s.
   Only EMTs on Swan’s, no paramedics

Second Topic: “How do funding structures work on each island?”

Cheryl Crowley, Cliff Island: Totally volunteer on Cliff Island
   Portland fire dept. supports them very well
   No clinic, telemedicine - looking to the future
   “How do you get compensated?” is a good question. No town for Cliff to go to in order to get compensated.

Katelyn Damon, Cranberry Isles
   The Cranberry Isles budget $8k a year to compensate responders
   EMT’s get to go to Samoset for yearly training, $ is completely covered
   Population of Cranberries: 40/80 winter, 200-300 during the summer
   Also respond to Sutton and Bear Island

Will Tierny - Long Island
   Firefighters and EMT’s get base pay, officers more.
   It’s a stipend, given at Christmas time.
   They offer $10/hour for training – which is mandatory
   They have been toying with on-call/run pay.
   They don’t bill for runs, insurance doesn’t pay for 2 runs.
   They have their own fireboat but worry that people who can’t afford it won’t call.
   Some of the issues they’ve been struggling with: How to get volunteers to train? How to get certified volunteers to keep yearly training? There are people who want to be rescue drivers/first
responders, but can’t get AVOC training and it’s tough to get trainers to come out.

Beth Putnam, Chebeague (over the phone)
Chebeague is similar to Long Island. EMTs are volunteer unless on call.
There is a similar stipend to Long Island. Two paramedics living on island, as part of rescue service
A few of them do Samoset training, and then go back to island to train the rest. A lot of them do online training

Herb Maine, Chebeague- There is $90k budged for fire and EMS a year.
The chief can allocate gifts to fire or rescue

April Brown, North Haven - The North Haven crew is on for all week. Friday to Friday. $25/hour when you are on a call.

Pat Lundholm, Vinalhaven – Vinalhaven has an on-call shift. Responders get $10 for signing up for 12-hour shift, $20 for weekends and holidays. They are paid per hour for individual runs, sliding scale based on certification level.

Donna Wiegel, Swan's Island - if on island, he's on call. No pay. Donna - we should be paying EMTs

There was some discussion around the subject of documentation and the importance of making run reports, and demanding 911 calls from island residents.

Kendra Chubbuck, Isle Au Haut asked a question about best practices for fire issues? Are there permits for burning brush? Isle Au Haut purchased fire extinguishers for homes.

Katelyn Damon, Cranberry Isles- Islands have permits for burning brush. Fire warden provides permit. If warden does not do this, they are under non-compliance, and are liable for any accidents. Right now, there are lots of verbal "permits". Working toward written permits.

Will T- Deputy fire marshals are on Long Island. It can also help to call in burn permits over the radio. This is helpful because dispatch will know there is a permitted burn in the area.

Cheryl Crowley - City of Portland islands are different. There was controlled burning on Cushing Island on a foggy day. Smoke travelled to Portland – now there is no more burning!
Cindy Gannon, Great Diamond – There are few volunteers and few services on Great Diamond Island. It is unclear who does what, so hearing these conversations are very helpful.

Mary Anne Mitchell, Peaks Island – Peaks is part of Portland, which has a full time police officer who is EMS and fire trained and a full time fire fighter on duty. There are also 18 trained fire EMS volunteers on the island (includes Portland firefighters who live on the island). Peaks has a full time paramedic on duty two of the four shifts and the other shifts are covered by an advanced EMT. Challenges include houses without house numbers, missing street signs, and people calling the local number and not 911.

**HAM RADIO presentation with Steve Hansen**  
Introduction by Eva Murray

Steve gave an overview and examples of how HAM Radio works. Ham Radio is unique because they can use whatever frequency they need to use to get messages out.

He went over purposes of amateur radio service and provided a useful handout. Some major points were:
- ‘Hams’ no longer need to learn Morse Code.
- There is a licensing process, outlined in the handout.
- Islands don’t need huge antennae. “Stealth antennas”
- Demonstrated how people can get messages anywhere in times when other communication is not working.

Roger Berle - Thanked all EMS personnel who showed up today and thanked the MIC reps for bringing island annual reports.

**LUNCH**

**Island Check-Ins**

**CLIFF ISLAND**

Not a lot to report. Island store is getting ready for the summer. Owners have new business in Portland. Islander will run store this summer. Owner will be there a few times a week.

School population is still at four. But, a new baby in a month! The teacher is expecting!

Sustainable Cliff Island group is very close to non-profit status. It will start thinking about fundraising/accepting donations. They are working with owners of 20 acres
of land where septic is located to possibly put workforce housing/new housing/public works depot. When projects start moving, it revitalizes community, and the population.

PEAKS ISLAND

Businesses are opening and public works is keeping the island exceptionally clean. Peaks Island Counsel submitted budget to Portland, mostly for dealing with transportation challenges, included in that middle and high school students would get year-round ferry boat passes. Last year, they started a needs based ferry ticket program which is in the current budget to continue. This year, they also asked for money for the food pantry and a non profit fuel assistance program.

There was a big Earth Day celebration this year that displayed rain barrels and compost bins sold at a discount rate through the city. They also are starting to participate in a tree program through the City of Portland, the Portland Tree Co-op Program

- Helps replant trees on island
- Did example of non-invasive garden
- Cigarette butt disposal, the "Buttler" displayed (environmental impact of cig butts shown) competition to guess how many cig butts were picked up around the Community Center on island to win a gift certificate to Ice Cream store

Storm interior window inserts are happening again in the fall and they were on display at the Earth Day celebration.

Peaks Fest is happening- 12th year. 3rd weekend in June, 3-day event

LONG ISLAND

About to have a town meeting to vote on whether to change to electing instead of appointing a fire chief. It’s been a tough process. Community Center still isn’t being rebuilt. They have been fundraising for years. Can’t fundraise on island anymore and have reached the amount they will raise. There is some debate about whether to renovate the old building or build new.

Portland Bay/Waterfront is bursting with activity. Year one of new private contractor for road services went very well. Selectmen had outside company come in to evaluate buildings on island. In terms of affordable housing, five pieces of land available for anyone who wants to lease and build houses on it.

NORTH HAVEN

They are currently addressing elder care issues on North Haven. A small group had 5 year plan. Last month, a 1.5 million dollar house was donated to elder care. It will
serve as staff housing and a facility can be built on the land. The group is working with North Haven conservation partners to divvy up 8 acres. A hard spot of for North Haven is Steve Wolfram, a lawyer from France, suing NEBO Lodge for building that was replaced. There is a new dock at Brown’s and Calderwood Hall has been renovated. These two and the eldercare project are all from 2012 and 2013 ISLE projects.

One issue on the island is that they still need year-round housing.

Question to MIC: Can we talk about flood insurance? Could that be a possible topic for a future meeting?

Another issue is with the Maine State Ferry Service. The state doesn’t pay ferry crew enough and is using a temp service to staff AB’s. Could reach crisis mode soon?

THE CRANBERRY ISLES

They had a good town meeting, they voted to establish credit to finish work at the Ashley Bryan school and to renovate the School on Great Cranberry. Roads are in need of work; they will do that next year. Islesford Neighborhood House has opened and activities will be there through summer. There are 10 students enrolled in school this year and there are teachers living on both islands - first time that’s happened in a long time. Winter was good, considering the weather. There were transportation issues with long-term private contractors and a series of fuel shortages during winter. 2 affordable houses are coming online in June.

VINALHAVEN

Problem with summer resident who went against the planning board and built a house, despite zoning rules. They are in the process of paving roads. Fox I co-op got extra funds, making improvements to the electric grid. Vinalhaven is participating in an economic development plan with II: What needs to happen on Main St? Two long-standing store fronts are up for sale Vinalhaven passed their comprehensive plan! Honor Flight program was a big hit. The founder is new physician at medical center, working with WW2 vets to get out to DC and see the memorials. The Selectmen are talking about putting lighthouse on the market. The school budget is done, but not passed

SWAN’S ISLAND

The town meeting was in March. Dexter re-elected for a 3 year term, may end up being the longest term in History.
The town voted to form a municipal advisory counsel with 7 members to determine the structure of the town government. Donna is on that committee. Selectmen are not in favor of it. There will be a special town meeting in May to decide what to do with town roads. The potential store owners who came to the November MIC meeting bought island the store and bought a home! They are living there year round. They opened the store on April 7th. The Electric co-op asked for 14.5% rate increase. They are hopeful for ruling by PUC soon. Swans Island is on 2nd year of pre-diabetes class and the weight loss is accumulating.

FRENCHBORO

The town pier has been rebuilt. The town building is in good shape with new shingling and landscaping. In terms of the school, there are seven kids in school now. The teacher is resigning. They might be down to one kid next year. They are working on new harbor ordinance - needs to happen if dredging is to happen. Town meeting is next month. They are having trouble reaching critical mass. One retired resident is leaving. There is continued discussion about the ferry schedule.

ISLE AU HAUT

We have one full-time EMT that is leaving the island after 25 years. Isle Au Haut set up basic first aid training. There are 16-20 people taking an all-day CPR training on May 17th. Two park rangers are EMTs, but they are only out during the summer (May to October). Two new families moved out, which increased school to 7 children. The town hosted its first Easter egg hunt in years. 11 kids participated. There was an uneventful town meeting, "a good one". They voted to hire a new harbormaster.

GREAT DIAMOND

A lot of work is going on with the dock and the roads. They are re-doing the cove side dock and water pipes. The inn is being rebuilt after fire; the economy of island needs it to be rebuilt. The inn expects to open next May. GDI is talking to Portland about trash collection and removal. They made an agreement with Portland to build a transfer station on island.

MATINICUS
There are fewer rats this year thanks to eagles and owls! The Ferry wharf, which is state owned, will be improved.
Eva shared her positive experience with Honor Flight. The engine replacement with harbor company will happen. The Federal grant to pay for auxiliary/solar equipment did not come through.
At town meeting, they passed used oil collection day 4 years in a row.
With rumors about who is leaving, school may have zero kids next year. The plan is to have it remain open.

CHEBEAGUE

Town Meeting is happening on June 7. There are no major issues expected. They are paving a mile of road. They are on a 10-year paving plan developed in 2010. They are planning on doing 1 mile per year.
There is going to be a new bookkeeper position dealing with finances. There will be a 1.2% increase in budget. There are two ordinances (fire and coastal), which should go smoothly.

No topic set for future meetings.

August 8th, next meeting
November 14th, meeting after that

Please be in touch with Karen, Donna and Roger for topics for future meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Burns