

MIC Meeting Notes
March 7, 2019
Room 600, Cross Office Building, Augusta
10:00-2:00
Theme: Community Data

MIC Representatives

Donna Wiegler
Mark Greene
Cheryl Crowley
Kendra Chubbuk
Eva Murry
Arch Gillies
Ingrid Gaither
Lisa Penalver
Andy Dorr

Legislative Representatives

Lydia Blume, Representative, District 3
Janice Cooper, Representative, District 47
Genevieve McDonald, Representative, District 134
Dave Miramant, Senator, District 12
Deane Rykerson, Representative, District 1
Michael Sylvester, Representative, District 39

Island Institute Staff

Molly Siegel
Meghan Grabill
Sam Belknap
Nick Battista
Suzanne MacDonald

MIC Business

The annual assessments have been sent out for \$200. Any questions please see Roger.

Island Institute Updates

Aquaculture Business Development Program is accepting applications through March 14th. The program focuses on business planning, one on one support services, networking with current and former program participants, and site visits to businesses along the coast.

The Shore Up Grant is being re-launched which provides grant funding to municipalities and organizations for coastal infrastructure resiliency planning.

Lots of work is being done around Broadband expansion in rural areas. Governor Mills' new climate change goals are helping inform our Sea Level Rise and Climate Change program areas. On the policy side we are supporting a bill currently moving through the legislature that would allow Plantations to deal with leadership issues as they arise including the removal of assessors who have not been completing their duties.

The Island Institute is continuing to follow the ferry issues. The new Commissioner announced two weeks ago that he would work with the advisory committee to take another look at the ferry rate structure.

Nick Battista registered as lobbyist because he is spending more than 8 hours a week communicating to legislators about what they should and shouldn't do. He talks with representatives often, so if islanders or MIC members have issues and questions, he can help elevate those to the representatives.

Q: Donna: how can you tell when the public comment process is open?

A: Nick: Bills are printed and referred to committee- the committee will post notices of public hearing 2 weeks before the date- to see the announcement you have to look through the word document attached to the email or go to the website and check every week and a half. **If there is a bill of interest let Nick know and he will flag the public hearing schedule if he sees it come up.**

There is a What Works Solutions Library Entry being developed about different ownership models of ferries in Maine and elsewhere.

Legislature Updates

Lydia Blume, Representative, District 3- Sits on the Coastal and Climate Action Caucus discussing climate issues. Large number of bills currently proposed. The municipal sea level rise bill (LD563) got through committee unanimously asking that sea level rise be part of state planning goals. A Climate Council was established by the executive branch so that we will be able to have more of a government leadership role in these climate issues.

Dave Miramant, Senator, District 12- On March 6th, Senator Miramant met with DOT commissioner for an hour about the Maine State Ferry Service (MSFS). Ferry service peer review has not been done for the Maine Ferry Service. MSFS went to North Carolina to do a peer review, but no one has come to review the MSFS. The last safety review was 10 years ago, so there is a need to update safety protocols and complete another safety review. The late run to Vinalhaven (4:30) will be starting again soon (Started as of March 1st) Senator Miramant is asking that it be a priority to figure out how to have a later run year-round because it has so much benefit to the community. He doesn't think that the argument about darkness is valid when medical runs can still happen, or the ferry can travel in zero visibility because of fog. Regulations need to make sense. There may be a reason why the last ferry couldn't run, but it didn't seem to be for the reasons given. The new Commissioner listened during his meeting with the Senator. The Commissioner is going to come to the Ferry Service Advisory Board meeting next week with some of his staff to listen to islanders.

Eva: Most of our concerns on Matinicus have to do with ramp and wharf repairs, maintenance, and engineering. We work directly with Rockland and maintenance has been considerably better. We haven't had the confrontation issues with the staff that other services have had but the passengers on the Matinicus ferry are mostly all local and so know the drill. There needs to be someone who is doing more of the clerical stuff, no one ever gets answers to their emails. There isn't enough admin. You can't get paperwork or answers to questions about paperwork from Rockland.

Donna: There are also issues with emergency services and transport and the MSFS requiring Life Flight, delaying transport, and increasing expenses. Life Flight is expensive. People aren't calling because they are afraid of the costs incurred, even when they have serious medical conditions.

Sen. Miramant: There are laws and regulations that regulate what Penobscot Island Air can do in terms of medical transport, but perhaps understanding what the islands and isolated places in Alaska dependent on air transport do could help to inform a solution for Maine. There need to be ongoing conversations about non critical, but still important, medical transport so that we don't take up a critical ride with a broken ankle, it isn't immediately life threatening, but it does need transport and treatment without delay.

Janice Cooper, Representative, District 47- Representative Cooper serves Chebeague and Long Island. Chebeague transportation company is buying a new ferry, so there is a bill to exempt it from the sales tax (LD124). They are also negotiating with the Maine Revenue Service in case the bill doesn't go through to create a tax exemption because the ferry also serves as the ambulance.

Q: Does anyone have issues with brown tail moths? If so, there is currently a bill (LD840) to help control their spread.

Andy: Vinalhaven does.

Kate: Warren does too.

They are impossible to eradicate, but there are control mechanisms. The bill will fund the currently known best practice which is a primitive method in which we pay a per nest bounty. It is low tech, but still seems to be the best way to get rid of the brown tail moths.

Michael Sylvester, Representative, District 39- Serves Casco Bay and is a resident of Peaks. Representative Sylvester is trying to resurrect the Water Resources Committee (LD199) which was done away with eight years ago when the planning commission was dissolved. It was charged with protecting ground water and regulating how to keep it clean and accessible. The proposal had a good public hearing and will be voted on next week. There is a bill to create a water trust for the state to create ownership over ground water use in case of emergency so the state could step in and mediate (LD197, LD413). Second bill has yet to have a hearing. There is a bill for revenue sharing from a tourist tax where 85% goes back to the service center generating the tax, but 15% goes into a sharing pot to provide grants for remote communities

to address opioid issues. Each community would be able to develop a solution that works for their community.

Deane Rykerson, Representative, District 1- Representative Rykerson sits on the Committee for Energy, Utilities and Technology as well as the Committee on Labor and Housing. The Energy committee is working closely with Efficiency Maine on a number of bills supporting locally made energy. LD13 on Microgrids, LD 41 on replacing net energy billing, LD 173 on Broadband expansion, LD 614 on Energy Independence for Maine.

Feature Topic: Data and Data Informed Story Telling

Meghan Grabill

Nick Battista

Suzanne MacDonald

The Island Institute has been using data for storytelling in one form or another for a long time. Each of the presenters will introduce themselves with an interesting data point.

Meghan's data point: 40% of adults currently living in Maine are not native born to Maine. 5% are from the Midwest where Meghan also originated.

Nick's data point: last year the value of Maine Lobster Landings from three towns in Maine: Rockland, Vinalhaven and Stonington (\$111 Million) was almost equal to the value of all commercial fisheries landings from Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Massachusetts combined (\$120 Million). Lobster landings are still the single most valuable commodity in the U.S.

Suzanne's data point: Bridging the Rural Efficiency Gap is a program which looks at the unique barriers of doing energy efficacy work in rural, cold climate states. Energy burden is a percentage of annual income that residents spend on energy annually. The national average energy burden is 3%, Maine's energy burden is 6%. The more remote residents are, the higher the energy burden gets- the higher the percentage of heating and energy costs are of a person's annual income. People with lower incomes are paying higher energy costs and that is a burden we are seeking solutions to lift.

Mark: I'd be interested in what the Island only % of energy burden is.

Suzanne: I don't have the exact number, but it is in the double digits

Data isn't always interesting, but it can be important in how we can tell our stories. There are currently four staff at the Institute who are working with at least a portion of their time to create data resources for communities to use through Waypoints and the new Community Data Team.

Ingrid: It is unofficial, but I have been investigating how affordable housing relates to school enrollment. Around 50-60% of our enrollment on the island is from families who are not native to the island and a majority of those are families living in affordable housing. I didn't know how much our school enrollment was dependent on our affordable housing projects. That was an important data point for me to prove how important affordable housing is to some

of the naysayers because the school is such a keystone in our community. There are not as many generational families staying on the island.

Mark: Rick Rogers provided a response from Islesboro. There are 13 kids in the school whose families live in the Islesboro affordable housing. It would be more but so many of the people in the housing have kids who have aged out of school. The houses aren't turning over, the people are staying. The waiting list has a lot of school age families.

Monhegan has a few students in the MISCA housing and one who lives in the only year-round available rental. Housing is important to the conversation about school enrollment and data helps tell that story. When you share data points you can create connections. At the Waypoints Forum Portland Public School District Superintendent Xavier Botana shared data points about school enrollment that put data of new Mainers alongside data about native Mainers. The school enrollment has remained steady, but when you look at the numbers, the enrollment numbers from native Mainers has gone down while enrollment from new Mainers has increased creating overall stability in the system. Superintendent Botana uses this data to show how bringing people into community is crucial for school enrollment.

Eva: There was 35,000 pounds of pot warp hauled off Matinicus to the mainland solid waste facility in one year. Matinicus is the first unbridged island to haul off fisheries related solid waste full time, not as a one-time project.

Donna: The people that move into our communities make great volunteers because they bring skills that may not be available locally. There is an economics professor who started a recycling committee on Swan's Island. He made the economic argument for single stream recycling based on data he collected. He showed it made economic sense to switch so we did.

Mark: It's thrilling to have someone come along and join the planning board, so you don't have to.

Eva: Before my time all those things were done by old ladies, but the demographics are shifting, we don't have any old ladies anymore to do all the things. New people are replacing things that used to exist in a different portion of the demographic. The young working population is a demographic that is less represented in ongoing volunteer positions and roles and tasks. We need those people who are willing to step up and keep the community going.

Lisa: I joined the Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) on Peaks with my 18-year-old daughter, and we are tipping the scale of the demographics to balance out the group of 70-year-old males who make up the rest of the team.

Suzanne: This shows how data can inform our decision making. There is a cost to run the community, volunteers offset that cost because you don't have to hire people. The

Island Institute has developed different reports showcasing data- The Last 20 Miles, published in 2007 really helped change the conversation about working waterfront. Few people realized before it was published that there was only 20 miles of active working waterfront left along the coast. <http://www.islandinstitute.org/resource/last-20-miles> Monhegan created tourism reports to think about impact of visitors on the island. (Suzanne shows report the cover of which contains a digitally altered photo with a multi-story resort built on Manana)

Meghan: The Waypoints publication was the Island Institute's attempt to take data and present it in a visually appealing way. The first one was produced in 2017 with broad indicator statistics that we thought would be helpful. In 2018, the second Waypoints was published that delved into livelihoods along the coast of Maine. We wanted to display how coastal Mainers make a living. What we wanted to do was to tell the story of what it is like to live and work here for an audience that doesn't necessarily live and work here. What you probably know, but what I didn't know until I moved here, is that the Portland region is very different from the Midcoast and Down East. We were able to give hard numbers to the self-employment and seasonal work numbers: 45% of work along the coast is seasonal which is 10% higher than the average in the US. The numbers show the differences that you know inherently from living here. In collecting and sorting the data we had to make some choices. We look at the 120 communities that are along the coast- we didn't go up the coastal rivers to every community that has a tidal influence. Because of that our coastal community count is different than other organizations that work along the coast who do count the communities that are up tidally influenced rivers.

In order to develop these graphic data representations, there is a lot of raw data. We identify the process, go to the source of the data, and then realize that the data doesn't exist in the way you want it to exist, especially for small organizations or communities. Census bureau suppresses data for privacy of individuals and industry for small communities. Data is aggregated into larger data. So, Peaks is aggregated into Portland by the census bureau and we can't tease that out. We need to find other ways to tell the story or find the data that is representative of that community. So, we pull in other data sets or use community collected data where it is available and able to be shared. The cleaned data is available on our website and digital copies (handout jump drives) If there is something in Waypoints that is confusing or inaccurate please call us.

So many things can influence data collection and sometimes we can help in making it more accurate if we know it isn't. For example, in the Maine Coast Heritage Trust data that was used to create our list of total conserved land along the coast, Monhegan wasn't listed. But we know that Monhegan has a substantial percentage of the island's land in conservation. It turns out the MCHT data is collected voluntarily by land trusts and other organizations reporting to them. The all-volunteer board on Monhegan didn't know they should be reporting. Once we had it sorted the land trust started reporting and Monhegan's conserved land showed up making the data set more accurate.

Ingrid: Thank you for being open to hearing from us. I find a lot of inaccuracies about the information in my town. Our local paper just published a story that only had data on Islesford so the local students are writing a letter to the editor. Sometimes the data that is collected or checked depends a little on who answers the phone that day and how much they know.

Suzanne: We realized that when we field the calls, we didn't have the good data. We had a board member who challenged us to be the demographic expert of the islands and so we have increased our staff capacity in that aspect. That we can invest in that research when things are wrong and move toward having data that has integrity. The next step is creating data that island communities put it to use.

Mark: Island Indicators- back in the day I used to see a copy and was asked if anything looked wonky. Is that still done?

Suzanne: I love the idea of an islander review and Meghan is in the process of doing community profiles. Those will be reviewed by islanders. We want to create data sets specific to each island. We want someone to work with us or at least review the document, so they are as accurate as possible. There are a handful of communities we are starting with. Obviously, it will make it easier if someone from the community is interested in data and wants to be involved.

There are also upcoming data trainings: NOAA is coming in May to do a data training specifically on economic data but the data can be used in many different ways. We are hoping to do more data training of varying levels. We want our resources to be practically useful, it is harder with the sorts of publications like Waypoints to know how it is being used.

Ingrid: How are Waypoints currently distributed?

Suzanne: We assembled a list with the town manager for every town, selectmen, libraries, schools, legislators, and MIC. About 800 people in total. It is available online for download from our website and we take them with us where ever we go to distribute. You can always ask us, and we will mail you some.

Kendra: There are summer island residents one lives in California and one lives in Massachusetts during the winter, I mail the Working Waterfront. This year I also sent them Waypoints.

Mark: It's expensive to mail these, but I wonder if box drops like you do with the Working Waterfront would work better. I don't think they get well distributed which is too bad because people like them when they see them.

Suzanne: We did mail them to all Island Institute members, but we wanted to focus on community members and so making sure they get to community was our priority.

Cheryl: I'd love to see a date clearly visible so that I know which one has more recent data

Donna: One data point that I found interesting was the self-employment data. Swan's is working on strategic plan and we are talking about diversifying income because so much of the self-employment is lobstering.

Kendra: Not only are islanders more often self-employed, but they are doing 3 or 4 jobs to make ends meet.

Ingrid: I look forward to retiring to 3 or 4 jobs.

Donna: The story in the Waypoints Livelihoods is about our new store owners, who will always be known as the new store owners. It was incredible all the things they've been able to do. They aren't just the store owners, but the propane dealers and they run a take-out, etc.

Suzanne: So, storytelling with data!

Nick: I spend a lot of time talking to people with a varied knowledge about island communities. I wanted to go through how I use data that is relevant for media, advocacy, and policy. I start out by saying there are 452,000 coastal residents. But 75% of Maine's coastal communities have fewer than 3500 people. Twenty five percent of those communities have fewer than 800 people. We are a rural state and need to create legislation as such. Data is an effective way to set the context that allows people to connect with the story. We help them draw those connections. I use the Midcoast lobster landing statistics to talk about economic vulnerability of our region whose economy is reliant on a single species. We can use data around high energy costs to talk about the limited capacity to address complicated energy challenges and how to provide support from a policy standpoint.

It is helpful to know about the high percentage of self-employed people because they are too busy to come talk to people in Augusta. When you are self-employed it is harder to just take a day off to talk to legislators. That's why the Island Institute is stepping into the policy space. There are six communities in Maine where over 50% of the residents are self-employed with 20% being the national average. Taking broad coastal data and pairing it with specific community data helps people put you in context and then connect it with a story, the so what? The 'so what' is important in getting people to care and make changes.

Meghan: (Storytelling with Data handout) We want you to think about two questions regarding the Waypoints Community Data: Who should this publication and data be shared with? What types of additional data could support your work?



ISLAND INSTITUTE®

MAINE ISLANDS COALITION MEETING

March 7, 2019
Augusta, Maine

Presenters:

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Storytelling with Data

People are more persuaded by a story that combines a local perspective with data. This presentation will give you some insights as to how the Island Institute has approached storytelling with data.

POST-IT NOTES

Please write your name and your response to the following prompts and bring to the front to be placed on the corresponding chart.

Pink Notes

What types of additional data could support your work?

Blue Notes

Who should this publication and data be shared with?

TELLING STORIES WITH STATISTICS

Use the Waypoints publication and find charts, graphs, or data points that set the context of your community for a legislator or reporter.

Activity: Think, Pair, Share

- 5 minutes: Independent thinking
- 5 minutes: Pair or small group work
- 10 minutes: Share with the entire group

Suggested Prompts

1. Where do you stand out?
2. What is surprising to you or to others?
3. What makes you unique?
4. Is there a particularly useful point you found?

SHARE YOUR DATA THOUGHTS WITH US

- Have you used data from the Waypoints publication?
- Do you know others who have used data from Waypoints?
- Where have you seen the Waypoints publication besides Island Institute events?
- Do you have data questions or thoughts or suggestions for our next publication or other community data related work?
- Would you or someone you know be interested in a more in-depth data training?

Please contact Meghan Grabil: mgrabill@islandinstitute.org
(207) 594-9209 ext. 127

REMINDERS

Please take a jump drive with the Waypoints publications and data spreadsheets for yourself or to share with a friend.

Post-It Note Answers:

Island Demographics

- Age
- Year-round population
- Accurate population count
- Year-round population vs. presence of a store
- Income levels of year-round vs. non
- % commuters
- % self-employed
- % seasonal
- Retiree Income
- Retiree housing
- Retiree healthcare
- % of residents with health insurance
- % of conserved land

Housing

- Affordable housing
- % of population from affordable housing initiatives
- % of school children from affordable housing initiatives
- # of properties that house year-round residents/owner, renter
- Available rental housing
- How many people (by town) have experienced significant difficulty getting or keeping homeowner's insurance?
- How are people heating their homes?
- Cost of home heating?

Fishing

- How much rope is sold each year in Maine
- How much other commercial fishing gear is sold each year in Maine

Waste

- What do Maine's smallest towns (under 500) spend annually on solid waste
- % recycling
- % of organic material in MSW
- \$ saved due to waste diversion

Ticks

- # deer hunters
- % ticks with disease
- Tick collection rate

NFIP

- % of buildings within floodplain
- Value of buildings (as assessed by towns)

Island Updates

Cliff:

The comfort room we are asking for at the Casco Bay Lines terminal in Portland is really the biggest topic. We aren't asking them to manage it, we have a lot of support so hopefully it will happen. Cliff is moving forward with broadband. We have few options available to us, so we are planning for microwave from mainland to the island and fiber to each home laid on the ground through the woods with Axiom. There have been a couple of permitting setbacks through the city. Sustainable Cliff Island is hoping for a boost from completing the broadband project to move some other projects forward. The Portland Public Schools Commission is coming to the end. The commission is finding that Portland schools are being used pretty efficiently at the elementary school level. They are still looking for cost savings. The city is looking for better funding from the new administration to help close gaps in this year's school budget, but it will be an ongoing problem. The commission presented recommendations to the public last week and will present the final recommendations to the school board. Enrollment is stable in the city of Portland.

Long:

Long Island has been doing an accurate population count every 2 months. Mark and Lorinda Valls, (Newspaper, UPS, Fedex delivery woman) have been spearheading the count. There are 365 houses on the island. They will continue the count in February, every February. They developed the parameters based on their own data needs. In 2018: 192 people, in 2019: 208 people. We know a lot of data because it is such a small place. Mark is always trying to get people excited about rental housing. In the last 20 years, 50 houses have transitioned from year-round to seasonal. So, what are some other data we should look at? How many houses could potentially be used, at least off-season, for rental properties? This year a handful have offered the house up for 10-month rentals which brought people to the island with kids.

Eva: We joke that the population is 100 give or take 75. The designation of summer people vs. year-round doesn't categorize the populations of islands anymore. Especially when so many residents take significant vacations in the winter time.

Friday Cheryl Crowley and Mark will be meeting with facilitators to bring some resolution to the wellness council for their request for a comfort room at the Casco Bay Lines terminal as they renovate. The management is not receptive to this idea, but the board of directors voted unanimously to make sure this was incorporated. It is an important component of the aging in place initiatives.

Vinalhaven:

There were 196 emergency calls last year: 67% were transported off island, 43% by airplane, 18% by ferry. The town is searching for an interim ambulance director as they look for what the next phase of that service will be. The clinic made over 300 house calls and many of the ambulance calls were generated from that. The average transport cost was \$338, not including the ambulance cost or life flight. The cost of emergency ferry transport is incurred by the town to get the patient across the water. The plane is denied by insurance companies until it is proved that it was medically necessary to transport.

Donna: When did the MSFS start billing the town for the service? We have trouble collecting and I think some of that information would fall under HIPPA.

Andy: It isn't a billable expense from Medicare. The ambulance service bills the town directly for the transport, so it never mentions the patient. There was recently a New York Times article about Vinalhaven featuring the restaurant that is for sale. The article mentions how there is no other restaurants, which didn't sit well with most folks. It seemed to be a sales pitch from the current restaurant owner making a romanticized appeal to encourage city folks move to an island and run a restaurant. The hotel changed ownership to Sara Crossman. There are currently three fuel dealers on the island. The Island Cares group is still active going through a strategic planning initiative. There is a forum on ticks that will be given on the island on May 4th.

Isle au Haut: By our drive by count 27% of the current year-round residents live in or have lived in the Isle au Haut Community Development Corporation houses showing the impact that group has on the island. Almost all the kids in the school live in ICDC homes (4 of 5 students). There are currently 3 rentals and there were 2 houses built in the 90's and sold as affordable homes. A housing committee has been developing more ideas on what will fit the community best as a next step for affordable housing and attracting families. There is a weatherization event next Friday and a contractor coming out to look at the town building. The store has been revived.

Cranberries: Town Meeting is happening on March 23rd. Some residents like to tell everyone that the Cranberries have the highest per pupil cost in the state at \$33,000 per student. In fact this year it only the second highest per pupil cost, North Haven has the highest and Islesboro and Frenchboro are just below the Cranberries. The two different school locations make it difficult to reduce the costs because some are fixed. Both sites need to be maintained and the students on one island need to be transported to the island hosting school for that year. The population is steady with Great Cranberry at 60 people, down about 10 people from last year because some young people moved off. Islesford also has about 60 people. There are two new oyster farms, one owned by a Great Cranberry resident and one by an Islesford resident but both are located in the pool between the two islands. They are both new operations but are being well received by the island communities. One of the new farmers went through the Island Institute's Aquaculture Business Development program.

Q: What percentage of town budget is the school?

Ingrid: I'm not sure off the top of my head.

Mark: Our school is only 40% of our town budget compared to 80% in Cumberland.

Matinicus: The population is about 74 year-round, 100 in the summer. Our data is so squishy because of who lives where when. It is so hard to say sometimes that there is a sign that says: "Matinicus population unknown". The trash program belongs to the Maine Lobsterman's Association and it is exciting to have taken so much pot warp and old traps off the island. Matinicus is really a front runner in dealing with the solid waste generated by the fishery. The three youngest fishermen are all married, all have babies, but no one is committing to put their kids in school. There are currently 0 students. The town is being mandated to fill open positions

and pay people, which sometimes means that they are paying people on the mainland for a job that doesn't exist.

Peaks: Casco Bay lines currently runs a 30-year-old vessel which carries 399 people and 12 cars. In the summer as many as 2000 people come over on the ferry daily. The population goes from 800 to 2000 in the summer. Peaks Island was marketed in the New York Times and Texas Tribune because of the three wedding venues on the island, but we only also have 3 stores and limited public facilities. We are marketed like a national park, but people come expecting Bar Harbor and Peaks isn't that. They ask, "so what do I do?" because there is a disconnect between the myth being sold as a tourist destination and the reality of the services and systems available on the island. Casco Bay Lines said they were building a boat to accommodate 50% more people. The island has had public health and safety concerns because of the number of day trippers crossing the bay, and to increase that would exacerbate the safety concerns. The city doesn't see it as their problem. The state owns the pier, the city owns the road, and a private company owns the ferry. The community wrote a letter to federal transportation authority cc'd to Angus King, the Office of the Governor, and the City of Portland to force a public meeting on the island. They refuse reservation systems or electronic ticketing systems, or remote parking. The solution needs to include demographics and research. No one has spearheaded the research, there has been no impact study done. The vote from the elected board was shifted to the operations team for decision making.

Swan's Island: The health center is supported by tax dollars and they were able to hire an assistant who is a nurse practitioner. She and her husband have moved to the island full time. The Mount Desert Island Hospital is hiring a new Physicians Assistant from Minnesota who they are sending to Swan's 18 times per year rather than 6 times per year. Town meeting was canceled due to the snow storm and moved to this Saturday. The second year of the deer reduction efforts through the winter happened because they have a special provision from Inland fisheries. The special hunt seemed to go better than last year. Last year Lyme disease cases were down. They town did a lot of aggressive burning in the spring to reduce tick habitat. There is a new committee for broadband and a \$10,000 planning grant from II with 1:1 matching funds. Donna tried to upload a 9-minute video that took 6 hours as an example of the slow internet. The selectmen are verbally committed but not financially committed. Each island has such a different need that it is hard to speak with a unified voice. It is a complex and tricky situation. Deer Isle Stonington had its first overdose death March 5th. People aren't coming to access the services that are available because of a variety of reasons.

Islesboro: Islanders are still very concerned with the MSFS ferry rate increase and are seeing the impacts to the island. Islesboro is continuing a law suit against the Maine Department of Transportation seeking to establish ferry rates that are based on the cost of service. This is a principle followed by the great majority of all transportation services, including systems in Washington state and North Carolina. Islesboro set up a public broadband service and it is attracting young families but the ferry tickets and the price to get back and forth is a real barrier. There hadn't been a ferry hike in over 9 years, so it was time, but residents want to have a fair increase. Residents are reporting cutting back on medical visits to the mainland,

education classes, and other necessary trips because of the enormous increases. Islesboro, out of necessity, is actively investigating alternative transport connections to the mainland.

Arch Gillies: Phil Crossman could not attend the meeting but would like to renew the call that islands served by the MSFS speak with "One Voice" in matters affecting them, especially now regarding the 2018 ferry rate increases.

Eva: Rather than starting a new group or committee, put the burden on the Maine State Ferry Service Advisory Committee- we are all volunteers and are trying to balance the amount of time being asked of participants. The questions are how do we work with the new management to set common goals for the 6 islands that are serviced by the MSFS when the needs of each island are so different? If you can't get to the island or it costs too much it impacts everything. So, it is important.

Arch: In whatever committee or circumstance, it is important that the goals of understanding, cooperation, and fairness- "One Voice"- should be sought and honored.

Q: What are the rates of islands not served by the MSFS?

Kendra: Islanders pay \$9 per trip, \$18 round trip. Visitors pay \$20, \$40 round trip. But the lower residential rate is subsidized by the taxes. Every year we give the ferry company \$50,000.