

MIC Notes
May 4, 2018
Island Institute, 10:00-2:00
Economic Development

MIC Members

Roger Berle, Co-Chair, Cliff Island
Donna Wiegler, Co-Chair, Swan's Island
Kendra Chubbuck, Isle au Haut
Kathy Warren, Vinalhaven
Randy Schaeffer, Peaks Island
Beverly Roxby, Frenchboro
Cheryl Crowley, Cliff Island
Mott Feibusch, Monhegan
Mark Greene, Long Island

Legislative Representatives

Chris Rector, Office of Angus King
Emily Horton, Office of Chellie Pingree
Bethany Beausang, Office of Chellie Pingree
Owen Casas – state representative of Camden, Rockport, and island of Islesboro

Guests

Drexel White, Maine Center for Disease Control
Shey Conover, Islesboro, small business owner – mussel aquaculture
Carly Mayhew, Monhegan, artist and small business owner- coffee roastery

Island Institute Staff

Karen Burns, Chief Talent Officer
Kate Tagai, Community Development Officer
Caroline Moore, Community Development Officer
Stephenie MacLagan, Community Development Officer
James Crimp, Marine Business Specialist
Yvonne Thomas, Community Development Officer, Education Specialist

MIC Business

Treasurers Report

Currently MIC has \$2100. There are 3.5 islands that have not paid their annual assessment totaling another \$700: Frenchboro, North Haven, and Swan's Island and Diamond Island Association. Roger will re-send invoices.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report seconded and passed.

Other Business

We have a certificate of appreciation for Charlie Wiegler. The following is an excerpt from the nomination letter:

Charlie has been a dedicated volunteer in the Swan's Island community for many years starting out as a member of the Fire Department then as emergency manager, ambulance driver, and finally he rounded out the emergency roles by becoming a nationally certified EMT Basic.

Over the years, Charlie has responded to hundreds of medical emergency calls, but on March 31, he was the first person on scene and witnessed a sudden cardiac arrest suffered by our neighbor, a 64-year-old lobsterman, who arrested in a 17' Carolina skiff tied to a float. Charlie immediately started CPR and awaited the arrival of an AED. As more emergency responders arrived to help, Charlie instructed others to provide the chest compressions, while he ran the scene. Under Charlie's leadership, a team of 5 emergency responders provided coordinated care for over an hour until LifeFlight took over.

Four weeks later, the patient is in stable condition and improving. Ninety percent of patients who suffer a sudden cardiac arrest die at the scene. Charlie's quick response and actions, along with his leadership skills saved our neighbor's life. To have a successful outcome for the patient is truly amazing!

Donna: Our neighbor is coming home today, one day shy of 5 weeks. I went to see him last week in Bangor and he said "You and Charlie saved my life." This is really a miracle because these things just don't happen. He says he's going fishing this summer, and I think he will! If there's a CPR class near you, take it!

Motion to approve minutes from March 2018 without a quorum. Minutes seconded and passed.

Thank you all for coming, I understand we didn't have full complement in Augusta either, so I hope that's not a trend.

Island Institute Updates

Karen Burns, Chief Talent Officer:

The Island Energy Conference is taking place today in Portland. A few weeks ago was the Island Artists and Makers Conference and the Broadband Conference, which coincided with great news for the Cranberries.

Stephenie: The Cranberries applied to a large USDA grant which was denied this winter. In the spring the town voted to release funding to ensure that the program went off without a hitch. The Friday before the conference, we found out that USDA had extra money after the first round of grant making and were funding the project. It was hugely celebratory and a lot of hard work. The grant was for 1.3 million for the project being 1.5 million – USDA requires a 15% match.

In terms of where islands are now, Islesford is now connected with 100/100 and GCI and Sutton should be up and running by June. Islesford is also up to 100/100. Matinicus worked hard

negotiating with other islands, and they are receiving 50/10. So, there are a number of islands with internet that is greater than the national average.

Karen: Our Education Team sponsored an evening talk by Ross Greene (author of *The Explosive Child*) that happened in Portland. Another big event is the reorganization of our internal structure. Projects are still going forward, but how they're staffed is different. Through more connected, team-based work, the Island Institute hopes to increase community impact and response.

We're trying to make sure that islands know who to talk to – you may be working with different faces. Please feel free to reach out to me – my new role is Chief Talent Officer, so I focus on retention and development of our staff. Our goal is to have our good work continue.

Donna: Is there a one pager that we could send out to MIC so people know who to contact?

Karen: We tried to keep at least one person the same on each team, so there is a familiar face on each.

Kate: ILEAD Sea Level Rise is happening at the end of this month. It's aimed at community leaders who want to start talking about SLR in their communities. We're also offering small grant funds for communities with planning needs around sea level rise, for example attending a conference to learn about the process. We have a small pot of money that we're taking requests for. Talk to Stephenie or myself for an application.

Kathy: Have you been in touch with SLR committee on VH?

Kate: Yes, and they've signed up, and Andy Dorr is coming to talk about the process that you've been through.

Roger: The Long Island contingent is wanting to know about changing from Fridays to another day of the week.

Mark: There's no perfect day, but Fridays tend to be a really busy day of the week for us. That's just me, but I wanted to know what others are thinking.

Kathy: I wouldn't mind, it's hard for me to be out of the office on Friday

Mott: Friday is unrealistic for us in the winter – we can't be here at 10 on Fridays. A Tuesday or Thursday would be best.

Kathy and Donna: I'd pick Thursday over Tuesday

Roger: Let's try Thursdays. The next two meetings will be Thursday, August 2nd and Thursday, November 1st.

Donna: Eva might have a conflict on Thursdays with the Ferry Advisory Board meetings.

Kathy: August 2nd is in the middle of Lobster Festival, so parking will be hard.

Roger: Janet Anderson is looking for a new representative, as she was unable to make it. Let's continue working on identifying alternates, all of us.

Bev: We had a couple from Frenchboro who were hoping to come today, but they couldn't find a babysitter for their dog – hopefully they'll come in the future.

Legislative Updates

Chris Rector – Indirectly island related: Maine was selected by the Post Road Foundation (out of Harvard) to receive grant money for planning to integrate broadband into three community projects. They're looking at rural broadband presentation and ways to make it more economic. They ran a National RFP and were intending to pick 3 projects – they ended up picking 3 projects in Maine and 2 additional ones. Baileyville/Calais already had started a community project and have engaged with the Eastern Maine Electric Co-op to expand the network they can use to operate broadband and the potential to add smart grid technology. The other two projects are Old Town/Orono with Emera and Sanford/Kennebunk with Central Maine Power. It's something that has gotten very little publicity here in Maine. Communities will be doing a preliminary study (Post Road is paying 90% of cost, community comes up with 10%), which should be done in the fall, to indicate whether it makes sense to expand this. May be translatable to island communities. Our office has been very engaged with this. I think it has great potential for Maine and the country.

Stephenie: At Island Institute, we're working closely with these, especially Calais/Baileyville. They've been really great in terms of communicating with islands and sharing information on how they've done that. We're looking forward to seeing the report. 3 islands are similar to Calais/Baileyville in that they have multiple internet providers. The idea of smart grid is something that many communities are really starting to look into.

Chris: And improving grid security, that's really important.

Emily: Farm Bill passed out of the Agriculture Committee, the Congresswoman plans on voting NO if there are no changes to the bill because of a lack of support for local and regional food systems. The bill still has to go through the Senate and the House, so it has a long way to go. Last week, Congresswoman Pingree attended a hearing with the EPA Secretary Scott Pruitt and grilled him on climate change and the lack of science and data being used to develop EPA policy. The questioning and video clip is available online. Chellie also read letters that she received from island students and how they see climate change impacting fisheries and sea level rise. It was powerful.

Bev: Any indication on where're Congressman Poliquin stands on these issues?

Emily: I would suggest reaching out to his office directly.

Bethany Beausang: I would also add this is the end of small business week. Congresswoman Pingree had a reception in DC and is visiting small businesses in Maine this week. She was recently named Co-Chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus and we are looking into how that can support Maine's creative arts community.

Owen Casas: We failed to override veto on microgrids, which I think would have been beneficial to islands. Spending a lot of time on the new ferry rate schedule. I'm sure folks are aware of that. Still trying to get a better handle on that. Our inability to work in Augusta is

going to have a lot of detrimental effects on a lot of people in Maine, including the islands. Encourage your representatives to compromise.

I am hopeful that we can come in for a special session in the next few weeks. We have just under 200 bills sitting on the appropriations table. If we can't get those through this year with a special session, they will have to be picked up next session. The transportation bond is one that is currently on hold that has a lot of general support from constituents. If we can't figure out how to move this forward, when this is something there's a lot of support around, I don't know.

Economic Development Overview, Stephenie MacLagan and James Crimp

James Crimp: Marine Business Specialist on Aquaculture, Lobster, and Small Business teams at the Island Institute.

Stephenie MacLagan: Natural resource economist with a background working for the state and in the economic modeling of the soft-shell clam industry Downeast. At the Island Institute, Stephenie is bringing that economic lens to a variety of teams including: Aquaculture, Small Business, and Broadband.

Stephenie: Thanks for bringing up the topic of Economic Development trends – we're going to first frame it with what's not changing, including: labor shortages (right people with right skills), limited number of career options on the islands, and the opportunities for that career and professional development. More people living on islands and coastal communities are working seasonal or part-time jobs than inland or as an average across the U.S.

Folder with materials handed out to in-person – see <http://www.islandinstitute.org/island-and-coastal-business-launchpad> for small business and <http://www.islandinstitute.org/aquaculture#abd> for aquaculture information.

The data being presented today comes from our Waypoints research that can be found on our website here:

http://www.islandinstitute.org/sites/default/files/Final_Waypoints_01_13_2017_0.pdf

We hope that the next Waypoints will be published June 2018 (hardcopy and digital). We always want feedback – how did you use the data? What was particularly compelling? What data would be useful for you to have about your community?

What follows are the slides from the Powerpoint Presentation:

What's happening?

- Full-time vs part-time; seasonal vs year-round; # of jobs varies
- We know our local economies are affected by seasonality
- Seasonal work can be unpredictable, with uneven income
- Seasonal work affected by econ. and env. factors year-to year
 - Will the job be there next year?
 - Will I make the same amount? Can I predict whether I'll make +/-?
- Resource industries workforce in ME is 2x the US
- ~25% of workforce in education or healthcare ~ US avg
- Retail, manufacturing, arts and recreation, and prof. services



Interested in small business support on the coast of Maine?

Contact Stephenie MacLagan: smaclagan@islandinstitute.org • 207.745.3317



Small Business Owner or Manager?
Looking to Start a New Business?



Would you like to start, grow, or diversify your business, or learn about professional development resources?



Maine Artist or Maker
or an Arts Business?



Would you like to get one-on-one advice and mentoring, or learn about other professional development opportunities?



Do You Work on the Water
or for a Waterfront Business?



Would you like to be more successful on the water, explore ways to diversify your income, or obtain tailored training?

Island and Coastal Business Launchpad Program

Starting, Growing, or Diversifying?

Tailored advice on business & financial planning, marketing, and networking

Making a Beneficial Impact Locally?

Microgrants for Entrepreneurship & Community Impact;
Island & Coastal Innovation Loans
Contact: bwerner@islandinstitute.org

Read about Tips and Stories from the Coast:

Commercial Currents:
www.islandinstitute.org/blog/economic

Starting Out or Getting Established?

Artists & Makers Conference:
Held annually in April—workshops on pricing, marketing, & networking
Contact: lvietze@islandinstitute.org

Selling Maine Island or Coastal Products?

Learn about Archipelago, retail store & gallery, showcasing handmade art, craft, or design
Contact: lvietze@islandinstitute.org

All Types of Coastal Small Businesses:

Digital Education Workshops: Come learn cost-saving and market-reaching skills

Shellfish or Seaweed Aquaculture?

Aquaculture Business Development Program includes extensive one-on-one support services & networking

Seaweed Processor?

Edible Seaweed Report: Research on Maine sea vegetable market expansion
Contact: jcrimp@islandinstitute.org

Fishermen and Other Business Professionals:

Financial Planning Workshops: Experts share strategies for saving/investing what you earn

Aquaculture as a tool for diversification

Aquaculture Business Development program



- Est. \$85 mil cum. total econ. impact through 2025
- ~100 total job impact 2025
- 8 oyster, 7 seaweed, 1 mussel
- Trained 65 aspiring aquaculturalists to-date

Edible Seaweed Expansion



- Developed Edible Study
 - 60 attendees at release event
 - 12 inquiries for full report
- Provided support to 5 buyers/ processors/wholesalers
- Planning Market Analysis

Creative Economy

Themes among artists & makers

- Coast of Maine is so inspirational!
- Business planning is important
- 50% of time needs to be focused on marketing

Popular Resources

- Training for online marketing
- Marketing and branding support
- Artist residencies to gain new inspiration, stay energized

Arts, Recreation, Hospitality:

9.6%	US
8.9%	NE & ME
7.8%	Coast & Is.

Bringing the Broadband

"We like our culture as a fishing community. We're being driven by a desire to sustain our way of life in the future, and broadband could help us."

"This digital education workshop was very valuable to me, as a bookkeeper for my husband's lobstering business."

"Increasing trends to work-from-home is an opportunity for us to assure new arrivals they can be financially & economically secure."

"Our other business locations were shocked to find here we don't have the same internet capabilities. What it made us do was operate as we did back in 1996, and it's costing us!"

Trends Along the Coast

Online Presence

- Overnight visitors
 - 65% use internet to plan
 - 45% use family/friends
- 75% use internet post-arrival
 - 80% of businesses do
 - 65% of leisure travels do
- 55% of ME biz have website

Digital Tools

- 1 lobsterman → 10 trained
- Planned workshops:
 - QuickBooks Online
 - Website Design
 - Social Media for Business

"Nice mix of video and personal instruction. I learned a LOT!"

Apprenticeable Trades

Decline in number of businesses and entering employees

- Island and coastal communities are remote, few/no businesses
- Attaining licensure, certification or education requirements

Voices being heard

- From MIC
- From small business owners
- Planned roundtable discussion
 - Business owners
 - Training/education organizations

It can take up to 2 years to just become an Apprentice; 8 years to no longer have to work under a Master

By increasing the number people in these trades who live in coastal and island communities, we can hire locally, keeping jobs and money in the local economy.

But remoteness means that these types of businesses aren't in our communities or our residents face challenges in getting the required licensure or other requirements.

Infrastructure



- Upgrades in community broadband, energy, and working waterfront infrastructure are essential for economic development.
- Tight municipal budgets can lead to bypassing important planning work and investing in projects at a scale that meets both immediate and long-term needs
- Island Institute has hired new Infrastructure Finance Specialist, is working to develop strategies for financing and grant funding to aid communities with infrastructure needs

Questions/Comments During Presentation

- How many islanders in the Island Institute's Aquaculture Training Program?
 - o 8 islanders this year – tend to accept islanders as they tend to be a great fit for starting aquaculture businesses.
- Environmental Impact Statements/Choosing Sites?
 - o We work with people in our training program to determine species and find an appropriate site – consultants are used to measure temperature and other science-based indicators that are important in determining the best site.
 - o Environmental Assessment for “common good” goes through the Department of Marine Resources, who examines the impact on the greater environment
- Future applications for Aquaculture Business Development?
 - o The call for applications goes out in January and potential applicants have until the end of March to submit. The program kicks off in April. [Information on the website.](#)
- In terms of sustainability and attracting young entrepreneurs to our island, can we learn about whether aquaculture is relevant in our area?
 - o Don't underestimate knowledge of local fishermen in terms of their understanding of the water. One thing to note in Casco Bay is closed waters due to overboard discharges on islands and Portland water district. Our program tries to address that bottleneck/obstacle.
- Of the people you're accepting, what are the percentages of people already in a fishery trying to enter aquaculture?
 - o Varies each year, but this year 90% of participants were already in the fishery. Others were already working on the water.
 - o Varies island to island, in terms of who is involved. If you get a couple of fishing leaders in the program, then the uptick can go pretty quick.
- Water quality issue is real. We're in big time testing. Are there any resources out there to help with overboard discharge systems?
 - o Yes, for low-income landowners. Otherwise it's home owner education.
 - o Could write it into a grant, like CDBG grant, as part of the business development itself
- Note: Community Kelp Night on Vinalhaven May 17th.
- Shout out to Lisa and co for the Artists and Makers Conference – great little conference to go to that I would highly recommend. I've been going since it started and it was a small group, has expanded since then. I'm not much of an artist myself, but from a small business/gift shop owner, it's credibly helpful and worth your while. Takes place the first Friday in April.
- Round table discussions are taking place at the end of this month Re: Apprenticeable Trades
 - o *Kathy*: Interesting data point would be to sit at the 7:00 boat and assess the dollar amount of the tradesman that commute daily to work on Vinalhaven – that Vinalhaven kids could do if they had the training. The issue after that is where do they live?
 - o *Kendra*: I think that's the same in all islands – for us it's the 4:15 boat.

- New hire at Island Institute Alli Carmen has been focusing on a loan program and will be looking into larger grant programs to help communities plan for infrastructure projects like working waterfront, broadband, energy.
 - o *Kathy:* Would you consider workforce housing (different from housing) as a key infrastructure? It's an important thing, and I think it should be.
 - o *Stephenie:* We try and network you with state networks who are doing that work.
 - o *Kathy:* Our problem on Vinalhaven is capacity – people capacity. Finding that person to be the housing person and see it through is hard.

Open Discussion

Mott: It's great that there are programs, roundtables, etc but this is the busiest time of year for us on Monhegan. It's hard to get in all the time and take part in these conversations. Beginning of April through end of May is when all these are taking place and I would have loved to go, but it's hard.

Stephenie: The Energy Conference has moved around in timing, and I know that Broadband has as well. Do reach out to conference organizers to share this feedback. Some provide facebook live and some materials will be available online after the fact, so it is always good to email and ask for resources, especially if you can't make the conference.

Mott: There are 5-10 movers and shakers on the island – we're spread thin.

Donna: On 60 minutes last week, there was an interesting Aquaculture segment. It was a great piece (Connecticut not Maine), it could have been filmed here with the same story.

Roger: We're hosting Barton for our cooking show in Portland in two weeks, it will be on the archives. He's cooking with kelp – unsure what he'll prepare.

Kendra: I was at CEI's meeting last week – I'm planning on carrying their seaweed tortillas – I can't remember their name. I wanted to carry that because it was made with seaweed and it is a Maine business.

Kate: Kendra, how much of your business is centered on island versus online?

Kendra: I do have a website and I do get winter orders, they send me an email from the website. People just email me, I get about 15 or 20 orders a year. My store is only 16x20 – it's a small gift shop. Now starting my 7th year in business, I do about 86,000 in sales. In order to make it or hire someone, I need about \$100,000 in sales. I'm open seven days a week from June 1 through the end of October. I'm also a free wireless hotspot too. People will come on island and don't have charge cards or cash with them because they're told that there's nothing there – they end up buying something – they take my business card and send me a check when they get home (I'm talking \$50-\$200).

Mott: Do you find that being the wifi hotspot drives sales?

Kendra: Yes, I do. Not always a big sale, but they usually buy something. It gets them in the door.

Island Updates

Randy Schaeffer, Peaks Island

Lot of community participation around the threat of closing the island school. It will always come up, so it's not going to go away. Nice to see the level of the community response. Rental of golf carts is an issue – lots of complaints in the last 7-8 years. Two companies rent carts, more and more each year. Especially for wedding celebrations, which brings into question safe driving/respect of properties, etc. Peaks is a part of the city of Portland, so we don't have the ability to collect vehicle permits. Window Dressers is running a program on the island for insulated window inserts, - low cost alternative to expensive storm windows – Peaks is in the process of starting to measure windows for people who want to participate. Will be built in November and installed. Starting to plan an assisted living project, which they're looking to have an Island Fellow work on in addition to work in school. Air BnB's is an issue/concern, with differing needs from Portland and Peaks. Peaks Island Council is taking up this issue. Parking update – continues to be frustrating.

Beverly Roxby, Frenchboro

Jan, our teacher, will be leaving after 4 years, and Lindsey Eysnogle, our principal, is also leaving. As is our guidance counselor. Mark is our superintendent on MDI, and says we have some good applications for both positions. A woman from Arizona is being flown out to a second-round interview next week. Some interesting building projects/hopes at the school – looking at installing heat pumps and solar panels to save energy. A lot of that is driven by school committee member, who I hope will join us in future meetings. Lauren Jennings (Frenchboro Municipal Association) emailed to share that a feasibility study will be happening for a town wharf. Frenchboro is in the queue for dredging. [Donna will share information about a Municipal/Working Waterfronts/Infrastructure grant, that was listed in this week's MDI Islander]. Lauren is setting up a time for the Maine Aquaculture Association to come and talk to people on the island. A Family that had moved off last year is back. There will be an opening on the school committee coming. Currently there are 3 kids in the school, likely 4 next year. Might have another Island Fellow for next year to work on afterschool programming and with MCHT to diversify their presence.

Mott Feibusch and Carly Mayhew, Monhegan

We had our town meeting May 3rd where there were a couple articles passed that might be of interest. One was having dedicated broadband speeds (currently 3/1 – a lot is wireless to the one receiver, makes it hard to zoom into meetings). We're applying for an Island Fellow who will help with broadband survey's and with changes to the tax assessment. For the 2nd year in a row we've used tax money (10,000) for MISCA Monhegan Island Sustainable Community Association– talking a lot about affordable housing.

Carly: MISCA is no longer looking into buying homes and selling them but investigating rental options. A question we're considering is do you cap how long people can rent, and what do you do if there's no place for them to buy/move in to?

Mott: Raising money for a new firetruck – put \$15,000 towards that in the hopes of a creative solution through grant funding. Having some troubles with the 2nd assessor. MAV offshore

wind project – successfully negotiated agreement with them. That has been going through the legislature, was opened back up to public discussion, we'll see how that goes. As part of that, they'll offer one scholarship a year for a Monhegan student. It is the 50th anniversary of the museum and there are lots of events this summer. The power station has new upgrades and is going well.

Carly: There are four kids in the school, and sixty year-round residents.

Kendra Chubbuck, Isle au Haut

Shared the Town of Isle au Haut Annual Report. Town meeting was 4/23 and we instituted our new bookkeeping system for the town. Working on upgrading town office computers and general organization. There is an easement agreement with IAH town and Maine DOT/Maine Infrastructure Bank gave loan at \$200,000 for 20 years at 1% interest paid annually for financing. There's land/building in Stonington, we're going to have an easement on that for life. New midday scheduled boat run on Tuesdays and Thursdays has made life and businesses more efficient for all. The broadband committee is doing a wonderful job – see their report on page 57 of the town report.

Mark Greene, Long Island

Shared the Town of Long Island Annual Report. Usually MIC is the day before town meeting, but the meeting is a week away. There is a proposed change in fees at transfer station. Lobster trap disposal is proposed to go from \$1 to \$5. On Chebeague, they require that the traps be crushed. That's going to be the biggest item at town meeting. We have fees, pages of fees. This is our 25th year as a town. There is a celebration of sorts coming on July 1st – daytime activities are still murky, that's up to the historical society – ceremonies, flag raising, opening of the time capsule (which will be reburied with a new one that the school kids are making). For the evening, we chartered the Bay Mist and are going to have a boundary cruise. Our town clerk just retired after 20 years and so we have a new town clerk and a new tax collector. Our treasurer was new last year. We're expanding the timing of the town administrator. There was an announcement yesterday that Casco Bay Island Transit District was awarded \$6 million towards a new ferry, which will probably go towards the Peaks boat, which is fine. We started to build the wellness Center today, had to bring a few laborers out – that morning boat coming out from town is all laborers – we have so much work, but no one on island to do it which brings us back to the workforce housing issues. Broadband is critical to the future, but the housing worries me more (Kendra, Cheryl, Donna, Kathy all in agreement). I say it's dedicated rental housing that we need more than anything – available (I'm not even saying affordable)

Donna: It's too expensive to do individual homes – I think we need small, efficient apartments.

Kathy Warren, Vinalhaven

Downtown Revitalization Plan is happening, putting together an RFP for a master plan. Main street used to be water – grout bank, with rising tides water comes from all angles (ocean, pond, underneath). Sea level rise is already happening – our downtown parking lot was underwater earlier this spring. Have a new code enforcement officer in place who lives on the

island, she's a very energized and determined community member. Planning commission is up and running after a hiatus of 2-3 years, trying to get our act together ordinance-wise. The farmers of Sparkplug Farm bought their own farm in Leeds – we had an active CSA last year. New farmers have taken over and renamed it King Tide Farm. They are currently selling eggs. 164 kids in school, 30 days left, only a few teaching positions turning over this year. Some drama around the ferry rate, which has settled at least for now. District meeting for school budget upcoming – looking at a 4 percent budget increase, 12 percent assessment increase. Have 34 kids in special education and 6 with very high need. Need to address how best to serve those students, so a few hundred thousand dollars will go to that. Still an effort to build a playground (privately funded though).

Donna Wiegle, Swan's Island

Shout out to Eva Murray, who couldn't be here today. She received the award for Trash Manager of the Year – a well-deserved award for all of her efforts.

Ferry rate increase – I would have liked to talk to Owen with a perspective of someone not from Islesboro. Rates aren't all that bad for Swan's. We've been doing some field burning with volunteers and our fire department in an effort to wage war against ticks – we have a huge tick problem. Hadn't burned the fields in 8-10 years, there's a narrow spring window to do so. Great relationship with Chuck from Maine Medical Center's vector-borne disease lab – they were trying to assess the size of the deer population. We were approved for a deer reduction effort (Feb-March deer baiting, and hunting allowed) – only 2 deer were killed. Next year we'll be able to start in December. Real estate – we say we don't have workforce housing, but it is a buyer's market on Swan's Island. Not houses that year-round residents will afford but the houses for sale are selling at below market value. Kind of unfortunate that year-round folks still can't afford to be buying those properties. We had our town meeting and it was exciting. Re-elected Sonny Sprague for another 3-year term, he's been in office for over 40 years. Nobody ran against him. I'm envious of places with younger populations. Housing for law enforcement – approved \$100,000 to expand housing for sheriff/family.

Roger Berle and Cheryl Crowley, Cliff Island

Our school and the Peaks Island elementary was being threatened with closure. Roger and I went to the school board finance committee meeting, which was really insightful. They went line by line – there was unanimous support keeping Cliff Island School. They apologized for the fact that the school closing even got on the agenda. We were able to stay for the whole meeting and thank people afterwards.

We have a new student in the school – up to 3 students now – she is a foster child. Nice having another kid on the island. Going to Long Island twice a week for art and music. Playground seems to finally be coming together. Ended up being financed by budgeted through the city (not grant funded) – will likely come this summer. Have also raised a bunch of private money, too, so we have a say in what it looks like. The seasonal store will be taken over by a positive young couple, who are looking to run it long term. She grew up on the island and previously ran it before having kids. Sustainable Cliff Island is approaching broadband. With help of many entities including Island Institute, working through this – finally starting a large private

fundraising campaign as the city of Portland is not interested in giving a lot of money, but now that Fairpoint has been taken over by Consolidated and they might bring something out, we're back into the limbo stage and almost makes it harder to get broadband. Health clinic – made hard decision to not go ahead with previous building plans, as it's in a flood plain. Nurse practitioner and Cheryl continue to meet every other week with people at community hall – social event with coffee – and have a few people drop in (6 of 50) is good numbers and they'll continue. Having brainstorming sessions, wondering if they can expand city owned Fire Barn and have a small room for telehealth that's accessible. Waiting to see if town will fund that. Housing is an ongoing issue. Have small property with wharf, house, shed, and fuel station. Final application for fuel depot is in, waiting to hear. Next big focus on that property will be the wharf – really need to rebuild it. Mott suggested talking with Jess Stevens, who helped with the Monhegan wharf rebuild ten years ago. Little store at head of the wharf we hope to resurrect at some point – faces Jewel Island, and hope to bring folks in and not be competition with the other store. Forming an LLC.

Upcoming Topics

August: Volunteers – recruiting, managing, etc.

November: TBD

Kathy: suggest that we re-cover housing for this month. Feels really current, and that this is a serious need. The root of a lot of problems. Lots nodding in agreement.