

MIC

Donna Wiegler- Swan's
Roger Berle-Cliff
Cheryl Crowley-Cliff
Donna Damon- Chebeague
Lisa Penlever- Peaks
Mark Greene- Long
Mott Fiebusch- Monhegan
Eva Murray- Matinicus
Ingrid Gaither- Great Cranberry
Andy Dorr- Vinalhaven
Randy Schaeffer- Peaks
Shey Conover- Islesboro
Kendra Chubbuck

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Island Leaders

Sara Brake- Frenchboro
Emily Lane- Vinalhaven
Sonny Sprague- Swan's
Karen Griffin- Swan's
Bud Higgins- Peak's
Jess Stevens- Monhegan
Rick Latimer- North Haven
Peggy -Isle au Haut

Partner Organizations

Seacoast Mission
Douglas Corman
Sharon Daly

Island Updates

Cranberries:

High speed internet has been invaluable during this situation. We are now experiencing how beneficial it is for the people working from home and the students going to school. Social media is working well from us because it is where most people are getting their information and sharing. It does take time to sift through it and find the actual information from legitimate sources, but it is a clearinghouse.

What worries me is the elderly populations and how we get information in their hands especially when we are social distancing. Taking care of the elderly and getting them up to date information is a priority.

Frenchboro:

We have a seasonal full-time resident who just returned from Dubai and who is not listening to the community and is not self-isolating. There are currently 20 adults and 7 kids. Seasonal residents have been calling to ask if they can come to the island and they have been told yes. There is one round trip ferry twice a month and they are trying to extend the three hours between trips so they can get supplies.

Isle au Haut:

They have developed an advisory for the Blue Hill Peninsula that asks that if they come out, they notify the boat people and that they stay in isolation for two weeks. There was a couple from New York who came out last week who are now in isolation. They aren't happy about it, but we have an elderly population and we aren't thrilled with people from hot spots coming to the island. Legally we can't say no, but we are asking them to isolate for two weeks. The boat company put out a statement that is more severe- they will only take 10 passengers with 6 feet between them for spacing. We are asking contractors who work on the island to not bring out sub-contractors from away. We are asking for social distancing. We had a meeting on Tuesday. Following CDC guidelines.

Islesboro

Internet has helped with communication, school. The school has done a phenomenal job of quickly pivoting to a work from home model. The elementary school students got a box of activities to do for the next two weeks and the high school moved to virtual classes at 9 a.m and independent work for the rest of the day with hot lunch delivery. Fair amount of coordination between island organizations. There is a task force that has been meeting once a week to coordinate between social service, municipal and other service organizations. They know a lot about sharing resources and what each other are doing. Stores are really well stocked; the store owners are realizing that they are a critical link and are publishing changes in their service to add home delivery or curbside services. What we have struggled with is communication outside of Facebook. Sometimes the formal communication to the public is a challenge so the good things get lost in the social media chatter. There is a lot of fear and anxiety on social media. Trying to figure out as a community to encourage people to stay home and reinforce that message to business so the ferry is less busy with contractors coming over. We are making sure that people are aware of the resources available, so they aren't worried about their financial resources at the same time they are afraid of getting sick.

North Haven

Overwhelming support from the summer community to do what we can to "save the summer" so we can have a prosperous and good summer. North Haven grocery has done a great job setting up a delivery and to-go services which is working well. The EMT and medical professionals are doing well. WE are working on contingency planning. 16 people have compromised immune systems, 3 pregnant women, and a large portion that are over 70. If an elderly couple gets corona virus who

will care for them, so we are talking about setting up a care facility for situations like that. The planning is going well. The internet has been invaluable for continued planning. Drafted a letter to the Governor and sent it around to islands so that the ferry service can do what it needs to do in order to remain healthy.

Vinalhaven

We have a good team- public health, EMS director and Fire Chief have been meeting every day since last week. Having the public health officer has been a good source of information on how many are being tested and other considerations. We are working on setting up an emergency planning center. Working with the school to see if the hourly folks can work with the town to be able to support the community needs and still get paid. There is a challenge with communicating with the community through Facebook, the town website. But not everyone has access to the internet- posters can help, word of mouth, but not having a public broadcast station, if we may want to throw out the possibility of using VHF and radio as a possible way to share information. There have been challenges and concerns with seasonal folks because the resources are going to be stretched with taking care of the year-round population. Information at the ferry service terminals and on the boats to remind people of the limited resources and getting information to those folks. The schools have done a fantastic job pivoting to a home learning experience. There were over 1000 people watching the last select board meeting.

Matinicus

Very dependent on transportation because there aren't stores on the island. Very concerned about the health of the pioletts. Lots of informal support from friends on the mainland willing to do grocery runs. Not a lot of boats in the water. There has been a lot of community support and people offering to help. There are almost no PPE supplies on hand in case someone gets sick. Digital thermometers would be helpful if down the line someone gets a supply and/or someone gets sick on Matinicus. Matinicus is looking at strategies for holding town meeting- moving the date, video conferencing, etc.

Monhegan

Task force formed on Monday that have been meeting daily, working with the boat line to put in prudent measures given the limited resources on island. Encouraging people that if they don't have to be on the island they should consider staying where they are because of the limited resources. Trying to get through the next two weeks. Everyone relies on tourism. The task force is the fire department, constable, school board, emergency services and assessors. We have to be close to each other to safely off load cargo from the boat, so social distancing doesn't work very well. Boat line wants to limit the number of passengers to 10. We have a legal question on if we can have a list of current people and their medical conditions but how to do that with HIPPA rules. We are asking all residents to self-quarantine or isolate for two weeks. We have a low supply of PPE and thermometers. The only store has a closed-door operation where the store puts the food outside, and food safety and sanitation. How are people handling that?

Chebeague

Our historical society newsletter went out this week all about the three men on Chebeague in WW2 and the 1918 influenza. The social isolation is an issue. We have started a random letter campaign and a communications plan to keep people engaged. We have reached out to Long Island and if we have to have someone transported, the Long Island rescue boat as agreed to come pick them up so it won't compromise the ferry. We have people volunteering to run errands. The social media positive posts have been keeping people's spirits up. There is a rule at the store that only two people are allowed in at a time with a hand sanitizing station set up outside and no loitering. The transportation company has put numerous things in place like you hold your own ticket with your own pen and cross it off to reduce exposure.

Lots of work to do around the right to know law. There are individual people making decisions. We haven't yet gotten a coordinated effort together yet, so different organizations are doing their own thing. The ferry has curtailed trips to try to reduce risk. They haven't yet reduced the number of passengers. There are people coming back and forth for legitimate reasons. It would be a good idea for each island to have a joint statement about the risk, limited supplies, and limited medical care, and practical stories so that people can see the risks.

Swan's

We are keeping ears open to other communities. We had a meeting on Tuesday with community leaders and weekly thereafter- health officer, EMT/Fire Chief, store owner to have a conversation about the best approach for Swan's Island. Using social media to put out info from the Public Health Officer and the Town. Concerns about PPE equipment on the island which isn't enough if they need to start using it. Trying to get more equipment out. Lots of information from the emergency management systems and CDC. Have politely asked seasonal residents to not come back early because of limited resources. There have been some people coming. The expectation is that they will self-quarantine for 14 days, but there is no way to enforce it. We can only expect that people will do the right thing for the greater good. WE hope the MSFS will remain healthy and be able to keep going because that is our link to supplies and resources. If you can watch Maine CDC's Dr. Shah's updates, they are well done. He is providing great information about what is happening in the state. It is worth listening to his daily press conference. Sonny's Statement to Share widely will the group.

Long

Communication is key. There is a listserv from the Long Island Civic Association, which is the semi-official way things get posted, cross posted to Facebook. This has highlighted the importance of broadband for the island. Making sure everyone gets the word out is important. There is a daily briefing on the major topics that are sent around. Trying to get them printed to send to people's mailboxes who don't have the connectivity. Some of the seasonal residents are offering up the dry goods stored in their houses if the need arises. Sam and April Whitener are trying to keep the store stocked to cut down on the travel need for residents. EMS got fitted for masks the other day, but there aren't enough if we need to start using them. Protocols were changed about who drives the ambulance and who enters the house, with only one person entering as common-sense strategies. The rescue boat is a great resource, and we will continue to transport critical situations, but anything short of critical, they are working with Casco Bay Lines to use that as a resource for less critical cases. The Bay Lines is drastically reducing service with a crew to cover the Peaks Island run and one crew covering the down the bay run to leave a crew in reserve. On Long the clinical response is about transporting sick people to Portland, no medical infrastructure on the island.

Cliff

We are not our own town, so we don't have the same infrastructure. We only have a small population. The caregivers of the island are communicating on a regular basis. Grateful to have broadband on the island so that school kids can get their work done. Have used Rob's letter as a tool for maintaining seasonal residents' relationship in challenging times. Appreciate the Bay Lines taking proactive measure to protect the crew and the service/lifeline to the mainland. Portland has let the islands know that they do not want volunteer personnel going into people's homes, only paid staff. Decided unofficially to help their neighbors with as much protection is available.

Peaks

Peaks Island Council is not a legislative body. Formed a response committee to form an island specific response. Met four times in the last week virtually. Trying to get a screening capacity on

the island. Peaks Island Health Center is open three days a week with a Nurse Practitioner. Anticipating great demand on the facility. The transportation of people who are ill or going into town for screening is a concern. Reaching out to Public Safety staff on the island who are city employees and who are plugged into the safety measures the city of Portland has been implementing but want to make sure that they are looking at possible gaps to get those covered. Reaching out to the community to identify health professionals living on the island who could receive emergency credentials and supplement staff in the health center. They are reaching out to the vulnerable populations: Those without internet, compromised immune systems, elderly. Asking the community to create a registry and to neighbors to identify themselves to keep an eye on those folks and make sure that their needs are getting met. Inviting volunteers to distribute a flyer with critical points of information on a regular basis to reiterate information. The Peaks Island Elementary School are following the PPS guidelines for home study. The Committee will be making a recommendation to the PIC about adopting a statement to share with Portland City Councilors and Summer population to raise awareness. What is a platform that islands are using to communicate what is working well?

Open Discussion:

Question for everybody - are there people in your community who need access to a wireless hotspot? The national digital equity center is in the process of purchasing some devices that run off of T-Mobile/US Cellular Network. Happy to talk more offline but it sounds like an order is going in later today?

Donna: Questions from the Transportation Company:

What is the protocol you follow when you learn that someone who rode the ferry has or is suspected to have corona virus?

What is the protocol for cleaning the boat? What products?

Do the crew wear protective gear?

How is the rescue service handled on the island (Boat is also rescue boat)?

Have you gotten a health care professional to come and do testing? If so where do you set that up?

The Town of Islesboro has purchased/rented a trailer they have parked behind the town office and accessible through our large exam room that is heated, cooled, plumbed, and has telephone and intercom to isolate a patient that is believed to have the virus and is coming in for a test. You may want to contact Janet Anderson, Town Manager, (manager@townofislesboro.com) for more information.

Mott: If we have to send someone in to get tested, it would be good to know up and down the coast if there is a compiled list of those who are doing testing up and down the coast.

Sharon: To do testing on the island I was told you need full gear and special protocols for medical waste disposal.

Donna W.: They need to call their primary care provider to be triaged over the phone, and then have an apt with their medical provider who could do the swab which gets sent to the Maine CDC. Would like to know from islands who are doing testing how they are doing it.

Randy Schaeffer: How did the islands that are doing screening on their islands secure that capacity? From where? Are there sources other than Maine Med?

Shey Conover: The Islesboro Health Center has been able to administer tests. If you have questions, I can put anyone in contact with our medical center to ask how they were set up to administer a test and transport the sample to the mainland.

Jess Stevens: Leadership teams should think about a backup internet source because it is so important. Looking for some basic resource for running a leadership team to lead person isn't swamped and delegates

Mott: Future economic impacts to this situation? We are concerned about it on Monhegan. There is short term relief. No one can answer it at this time, but we are thinking about the long-term impacts.

Eva: I was just emailed a question as to whether the Maine State Ferry Service Advisory Board was doing anything about protocol recommendations, As many folks on this meeting today overlap with that, let me toss in--as chair of said advisory board--that it is not within our role to give the DOT operations protocols. Obviously, we are working to share information same as this group, and to be supportive of towns and transportation professionals--but the advisory board will not be determining safety procedures.

Douglass/Sharon and the Sea Coast Mission

Sharon: Being a nurse, the things that I would offer are that we should be making use of the phones when there are questions. Providers are much more flexible for treating things over the phone when it isn't the virus. The social isolation is huge. There has been a lot of talk about older people, but younger people are also getting ill, so we need to be aware of that.

Douglas: I want to applaud the thoughtful and intentional support of your communities. As we face into this and all the unknowns it is easy to think about all the things, we haven't gotten to yet but remember to pat yourself on the back for all you have done. I am very concerned about the long-term impact of social isolation and what that does to you. We need to start giving focus for how we build our communities and support each other so that we don't add increases in depression and anxiety to everything else.

Roger/Donna/MIC

Thank you for all the participants, Island Institute and the SeaCoast Mission. It has been productive to hear what others are doing.

Rob Snyder

Thank you for all the hard work that is being done. We are working very hard as a team and are looking at how we can redirect to be supportive of communities while they are going through this. We are willing to redeploy Island Institute resources to provide the support we can.

TOWN OF SWAN'S ISLAND

P. O. Box 11
125 Harbor Road
Swan's Island, ME 04685-0011

COVID-19

3/20/2020

TO THOSE OF YOU WHO OWN A SUMMER HOME ON SWAN'S ISLAND AND ARE ARRIVING EARLIER THEN USUAL, WE ASK YOU TO PLEASE CONTACT THE TOWN OFFICE AT 526-4279 OR KAREN AT 207-669-0940 UPON ARRIVAL.

VISTORS WITH EXTENSIVE STAYS ARE ASKED TO DO THE SAME.

REASON: WE WELCOME YOU TO YOUR SUMMER HOME, BUT WE RECOGNIZE YOU ARE TRAVELLING FROM LOCATIONS WHERE COVID-19 IS SPREADING QUICKLY. FOR YOUR SAFETY AND OURS, WE WOULD LIKE TO BE AWARE OF YOUR PRESENCE .

WE FURTHER REQUEST UPON ARRIVAL, YOU MAINTAIN A 14-DAY QUARANTINE IN PLACE.

THANK YOU.

SELECTMEN, TOWN OF SWAN'S ISLAND

TOWN OF SWAN'S ISLAND

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March 19, 2020

Yes, COVID 19 is real and very well may make it to Swan's Island.

On Tuesday, March 17th, the Selectmen called an emergency meeting with the following individuals: Robert Gardner, Fire Chief, Debbie Staples, EMS Director, Sonja Philbrook, EMS Assistant Director, Donna Wiegler, Health Officer, Charles Wiegler, Emergency Management Director, Rob Morang, Hancock County Sheriff, Kathy Clark, Ferry Advisory Committee, Terry Staples, Food Pantry, Bryan Krafjack, The Island Market and Supply, Sonny Sprague, Gary Turner, Jason Joyce, Selectmen, Karen Griffin, Administrative Assistant to Selectmen. We addressed COVID-19 and its impact on this island.

There is much we can do as a community to prepare for and to lessen the impact on our island. This virus is particularly hard on our older generation. We must remember that it is extremely important that our volunteers and members of our community that serve us stay healthy. Our *goal* is to minimize the impact but we cannot do it alone. The following are guidelines/suggestions on how to proceed forward:

- (1) Discourage all unnecessary off Island travel by islanders.
- (2) Discourage all unnecessary daily travel from the mainland.
- (3) If travel is necessary, please follow the most recent Maine Center of Disease Control (MCC) recommendations for travel. (If possible return the same day.)
- (4) We request that all residents returning from extended trips off island to voluntarily self quarantine for 2 weeks.
- (5) Island residents who work and stay on the mainland but return to the Island on the weekend should self-quarantine on weekend.

- (6) All off island day contractors working on the island are restricted to the job site. Once work day is completed, return to the ferry line for departure.
- (7) Contractors with longer stays (weekly) are to restrict travel while on the island to the work site. At the end of work, return to the ferry line for departure.
- (8) Remain in your car while on the ferry. Do not visit with crew while crossing. The Town is serviced by the Maine State Ferry Service that has a limited number of certified Captains, Engineers, and Able Bodied Seamen to operate the ferry. Their health is extremely important. We cannot lose our ferry service.
- (9) Suggestion: If at all possible purchase additional ferry tickets. This would greatly lessen congestion at the Ferry Terminal. Our terminal agents cannot get sick.
- (10) Check the Swan's Island Information Page and Town Office Page on Face Book for daily updates. (THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT)
- (11) Reminder: Washing hands and surfaces is absolutely necessary.

Wednesday morning, Terry Staples posted on Facebook the following: "Today, with God's grace, we will make it through these troubled times. Be safe, do not panic, and always show love and kindness to all." This is our belief as well.

Selectmen
Town of Swan's Island