February 19, 2021

Topic: Vaccine Prep

Agenda

Welcome from Roger & Donna

Housekeeping

Introduce yourself via chat box, edit name to include affiliation for participant list

Mute your phones, use the chat box for questions and resources, we'll share notes

Stay on at the end if you'd like to continue the discussion

**Attendees**

**Members**

Andy Dorr, Vinalhaven

Gabe McPhail, Vinalhaven

Carley Feibusch, Monhegan

Cheryl Crowley, Cliff

Roger Berle, Cliff

Donna Damon, Chebeague

Donna Wiegle, Swan’s Island

Eva Murray, Matinicus

Ingrid Gaither, Cranberry Isles

Jennifer Fox, Great Diamond Island

Katie Ford, Great Diamond Island

Kendra Chubbuck, Isle au Haut

Peggi Stevens, Isle au Haut

Lauren Bruce, Frenchboro

Rachel Bishop, Frenchboro

Mary Anne Mitchell, Peaks

Mark Greene, Long Island

**Guests**

Peggy Akers, Cliff; Northern Lights Health Care

Justin Poirier, Town Manager, Chebeague

Marjorie Powers, Peaks

Jennifer Hackel

Kelly Cotiaux, Office of Senator Collins

Genevieve McDonald,

Jennifer Hackel - Chebeague - COVID test team;

**Partner Organizations**

Island Institute

Rob Snyder

Kate Tagai

Craig Olson

Andy Theriault

Robin Chernow

Nick Battista

Great Lakes Islands Alliance

Lisa Brush, Lansing, MI; Stewardship Network

Peter Huston, South Bass Island, OH

Bob Anderson, Beaver Island, MI

Seacoast Mission

Douglas Cornman

Sharon Daley

Maine Municipal Association

Neal Goldberg

**Partner Organization Updates**

* Federal – Congressional offices
  + Collins - Kelly - no updates; on recess for the next few weeks. After will take up broadband, vaccinations, forgivable loans for small business; Collins is co-sponsoring legislation to increase broadband access through providing $15 million in matching grants to help builds.

* State – Legislators
  + Rep. Genevieve MacDonald - Ferry committee - used language change to look at funding for Maine State Ferry Service and report back in 2022; working group being formed; Ferry Advisory board.

Island Institute:

Rob Snyder

* Planning on leaving the Island Institute at the end of April. After 18 years with the organization, and 8 years as president.
* Has been a privilege to lead an organization like this.  Thankful for the partnership of the MIC.
* On March 15, Rob Beams will become the interim president until a new hire is made by the board.
* Moving on to Acme Smoked Seafood. Will still be living and working in Rockland, Maine

Kate Tagai

* Education scholarships are open through the end of February.
* Our workforce scholarship is open on a rolling application and can be applied for tools or training for people who are 17-26.
* Mentoring Access and Persistance program for high school Jr.’s and Sr.’s is also open on a rolling basis and is for any student regardless of their path after high school.

Andy Theriault

* Fellows Recruiting Season - link for chat: <https://www.islandinstitute.org/priorities/mobilizing-courageous-leaders/fellows/>

Nick Battista: Policy

* Legislative session just started - doing things virtually this year. Committees starting to figure out how to navigate the virtual nature of the work.
* Climate Council Action plan: https://climatecouncil.maine.gov
* Economic Recovery Committee Report: <https://www.maine.gov/future/sites/maine.gov.future/files/inline-files/Maine%20ERC%20Report_FINAL_11242020.pdf>
* Governor is releasing budget: <https://www.maine.gov/budget/home>
* 2020 session was cut short - so there is a lot of work in front of the legislature now
* Bulk of lobbying around bonds and budget

Right Whales and lobster fishery

* + Over next 10 years - need to show a 98% risk reduction to Right Whales
  + Comment periods open; one closes today; one in a week or so

SEAMaine Project -

* + Will ask that team to provide an update at the next meeting

Maine State Ferry Service Issue

* For islands served by MSFS - commissioner will be looking into the funding sources over the next 8-9 months.
  + Donna D - this has been going around for a long time. Making the case that the ocean is an extension of the roads - have to continue making that case, and educating people; Doing outreach with people in Washington State.
  + Andy - thinking about systems in other places; Great Lakes; South Carolina developing a What Works Solutions Library Entry on Ferry Systems.
  + Eva - we are and have been for years - everyone is entitled to a road; have been in touch with other states; Ferry Advisory board and others
    - From the chat - The American Islands in Lake Erie all have private operators and no oversight on schedule or cost

Maine Municipal Association:

Neal Goldberg:

* Seeing the ball get rolling in Augusta -
  + Climate Council Report - launching a program to assess community's capacity for Climate Mitigation and Adaptations. **RFP open for that**
  + Some legislation that might impact jobs and duties of harbor masters
  + DEP tank storage regulations
  + In March MMA - meeting with congressional delegation
  + Please reach out if you have questions

Seacoast Mission

* Most significant update around vaccinations
  + Sharon - been a real roller coaster - changes came through yesterday
    - Over 18 - (Monhegan, Matinicus, Isle au Haut)
    - Cranberries, Swans - anyone over 65
    - Good plan in place
    - Douglas registering people
* Douglas:
  + The Sunbeam - finally back in the water; as they work through the vaccination trips; also considering other service trips; due to COVID can't have guests on board
  + Maine Seacoast Mission scholarship program also open now: <https://www.seacoastmission.org/what-we-do/student-pathways/mission-scholarship-program/>

Featured Topic:  Vaccine Preparations on Island

**265,991 Cumulative vaccinations** in the state of Maine as of today.

Swan's

* Working with Seacoast Mission next week. 65+; really looking forward to it.
* Had first confirmed case of COVID on the island this week

Islesboro

* Yesterday successfully vaccination 116, 70+ at the health clinic
* 9AM - 1:15PM timeframe
* Did do preregistration - can't know for sure if you are going to have left-over vaccine or not
* Clinic had prepared for that. Identified people who were interested in age 69

Vinalhaven

* Working with health center
* Understanding about how to utilize vaccines
* 110 vaccines administered for 70+; first responders
* Utilized school for the facility

Matinicus

* Thank you to VH; ICMS (Island Community Medical Services); been very supportive, sent out epi pens for the clinics. Lots of support

Chebeague

* Jenny Hackel - Worked with Amy Rich - Island Commons - working with Cumberland County; able to piggyback with the second dose coming to the island to do second dose in the assisted living place. 38 people over 70
* Happy to work with vaccination on any island

Peaks

* Marge Powers - thank you Peggy - vaccine came out on Valentine’s day; secured the church; had plenty of Dr and Nurse volunteers; PPH there and focused on community coming together. Vaccinated 130 ppl 70+

Cliff

* Shout out to Peggy Akers - bringing vaccines to Long Island; Casco Bay Islanders able to come to Long and get vaccines.

Questions about perceptions about handling optics for extra doses;

* Reminders that it is the CDC making decisions
* Using their recommendations
* Not being out in front here; no need to become a PPH headline

Question about testing:

* For island medical clinics
* Is anyone making request of CDC or hospital to allow collection of PCR testing and sending them off -
  + Have been doing it on Chebeague since July; Dr. from the Island set up an account from Heigel lab in Augusta; 72 hours is the stability; Try to do it within 48
  + Islesboro - similar situation; take samples up to Augusta with volunteers
  + Cliff - does a similar system; sometimes 3 days results; though sometimes faster

GLIA update from Bob Anderson; Beaver Island

* IT seems the more local the control, the better the results
* State level guidelines administered at different local levels - Beaver Island - county
  + Local initiative of the health center was able to get vaccine to the island
  + By next week 254 ppl will have had 2 doses
* Madeline Island everyone 65+ has had 2 doses

General Question about coping and interactions on Islands?

* Cliff: Relatively well - but all hanging on by strings; it will come to release - how to make it a positive release
* IaH - small island; people have been great; been very respectful of the public shared space; been really strict; 6 passenger limit on the mail boat etc
  + Town has a call every other week with boat company and the park
* Matinicus- to our advantage that there are so few people on island right now; 25-30 self-selecting people. A lot of people want to come early; want to push the season.
* Long - Have more people here than ever; 239 people here; 106 households - up from last year; 216/97 (Mark's very formal annual February Census); things being very friendly; lots of people out walking; a different feeling winter; looks like more people will be earlier this year as well

School check in:

* Cranberries been able to be in person full time
* As far as I know, most of the island schools have been able to have elementary students every day. Cliff and Frenchboro are doing half day in person at school, then PM would be remote/specials. Islesboro and North Haven have had more hybrid for middle and high school.
* IAH totally in person
* Long - been doing half days, moving to full four days a week; GDI has been joining them remotely but in two weeks will join 2 days a week
* Matinicus has no kids this year, but expect a few next year. Population will be small enough that in person should be safe, but I don't know if the school board has discussed this. Missed the last meeting because tech issue.

Douglas:

* How to address the issue of those who are not following CDC guidelines.
  + Reminding people that this is a health issue not a political issue
  + That these behaviors are about maintaining the health and safety of the entire community not just the individual not wearing a mask etc.

Plans for rest of the year:

* Roger 2020 annual report coming out in Feb.
* Looking at changing up the format of the meetings
  + 2 deep dive meetings Spring and Fall
  + more responsive style meetings; shorter coming together to have a conversation and help to share information around topics; make sense of issues that are happening in the moment
* Looking for suggestions for meeting topics - we want to remain response and relevant as we can.
* Next meeting - end of March; early April

Community Updates

Cranberry Isles:

Both of the Cranberry Isles Schools are being utilized this school year, thus far, due to covid. Typically we would keep our k-8 students from both Cranberry and Islesford together and enroll at just one school but the school board decided to enroll at both schools to keep the kids from having to commute on the ferry which is a privately run business and covid-safety protocols were cited as the concern.

--The town of cranberry isles has decided to delay its annual town meeting from March to May this year so that it can be outside during a (hopefully!) warmer month to ensure social distancing.

Long Island

Island remains fairly busy with construction activities. The mild weather certainly has helped.

All meetings remain Zoom, Town Hall business remote; Library is remote select (call or online) and Saturday AM pickup. Church is Zoom; Wellness Center is open and staffed every other Monday.

School is in session mornings and remote in the afternoon. Great Diamond students have chosen remote all day. New superintendent hired for next year to replace Barbara Powers who is retiring. She graciously agreed to stay on this year to help guide us through the pandemic nightmare.

Completed our 4th annual February unofficial population count. For the 4th year in a row, the numbers continue to climb. As of Feb. 1, 2021 we have 239 folks here representing 106 households. 2020 was 216/97; 2019 was 208/95; 2018 was 192/90. Lots of interpretation of these numbers is possible, most of it positive except not a lot of younger families and kids.

Our Broadband project continues to drag a bit, but contract signing and loan details are beginning to move forward. The last big item remains the calculation and transparency of the Infrastructure Fee and awaiting grant application details. This fee pays for the monthly loan payments, which is to fund the construction. Also the amount of grant assistance available from ConnectME is unknown at this time, delaying just how much this will affect the Infrastructure Fee. While this fee avoids the direct use of tax monies to build the system, if it is too high it has the potential to make it unaffordable to some of our residents and can drive down the subscriber base needed to fund it. I am beginning to appreciate the Islesboro funding model. The least expensive way for residents to fund a community wide system is with taxes, not this fee. It is all a works in progress, but aiming for an end of 2021 build out if we can clear some of these speed bumps.

The ferry continues to maintain a good schedule as long as crews stay healthy. Ridership is very sparse.

The BIG news this past week, is that Covid vaccinations took place on Island this past weekend of Feb 13-14 for eligible groups (at this time over 70, remaining EMS, etc.) Thank you to our Wellness Director Amy Tierney and her contacts with Peggy Akers from Cliff Island, Northern Light and others. Over 40 folks received first shots including Cliff and Great Diamond folks.

Long Island Covid Testing Group has on island PCR tests that are self-administered, shipped directly to Augusta and results back in 72 hours or less. Over 60 folks have availed of this service, mostly around the holidays.

The Wellness Council is underwriting meal costs from the Hardshell Café for delivery to seniors and others. Very popular and awesome food. The Café also has almost daily specials for takeout. The new “Bakehouse” is also doing pizza on select weekends. A real turnaround for the former food desert that was Long Island.

Deer reduction this year was good with 35 taken (23 does and 12 bucks). Last year only 19 taken. The remaining deer are still overrunning the place. May be 70 or more as of January. Recommended carrying capacity of an island this size is maybe 12. A coyote has been sighted several times. Some discussion as to how to proceed. Strong opinions on both sides.

Volunteer drive has been successful to raise funds to build a skating rink to offset challenges of keeping the ice useable and safe at the Marsh.