

Maine Island Coalition Meeting

May 20, 2022

Emergency Services

MIC Members

Roger Berle, Cliff Island, Co-Chair
Kendra Chubbuck, Isle au Haut, Co-Chair
Peggi Stevens, Isle au Haut
Cheryl Crowley, Cliff Island
Donna Wiegler, Swan's Island
Jennifer Fox, Great Diamond Island
Mark Greene, Long Island
Rachel Bishop, Frenchboro
Gabe McPhail, Vinalhaven
Eva Murray, Matinicus Island
Jes Stevens, Monhegan
Jim B. Monhegan

MIC Partners

Island Institute
Alex Zipparo
Kate Tagai

Brenna Cohen
Abby Roche
Melanie Nash
Mia Colloredo-Mansfeld
Great Lakes Islands Alliance
Joe Moore, Beaver Island
Bob Anderson, Beaver Island

MIC Guests

Abigail Hiltz, Isle au Haut
Alison Richardson, Isle au Haut
Josh Aplin, Swan's Island
Marc Candage, Vinalhaven
Jessica Martin, Vinalhaven
Pat Lundholm, Vinalhaven
David Crowley, Cliff Island
Anne Weber, Great Diamond Island
Kelly Cotiaux, Staff Susan Collins

Welcome

MIC Co-Chairs Roger and Kendra

MIC will take a break for the summer. The next meeting will be September 23rd, 2022 and will focus on Accessory dwelling units, tiny houses, and other creative solutions to island housing challenges.

We are joined today by David Crowley, Cliff Island Fire Captain and part of the city of Portland fire department; Anne Weber, former Captain of Great Diamond Island fire; Alison Richardson, EMT for Acadia National Park on Isle au Haut, Abigail Hiltz, Selectman; Marc, Jessica, and Pat from Vinalhaven's Emergency Services departments.

Organization Updates

Island Institute: Five new fellows were just hired to start in September. We are interested in working with community leaders and introducing them to our leadership framework here:

<https://www.islandinstitute.org/priorities/strong-leadership/leadership/>

Legislative Updates

Senator Collins Office: Kelly Cotiaux, no updates but interested in listening

Feature Topic: Emergency Services

Portland Islands

- Cliff Island: as part of the city of Portland, they rely on them. This has caused some issues. Struggle to access training. They aren't meeting, not doing anything. David is a firefighter for Portland.
- Great Diamond Island: in a similar position, have not had training, Portland "has not shown up", and it is very discouraging.
- Connecting the issue to budget issues, turnover (new people on board in dispatch), feeling "at the bottom of the list".
- Have to go through Portland first in order to get LifeFlight approved.

Volunteer organizations feeling lack of capacity

- Feeling like it is "different times". Most volunteers are older and not as physically capable as younger volunteers.
- Some island visitors have a misunderstanding that there is 24/7 coverage. That isn't the case and it is dangerous.
- Being involved in local fire department has new/different requirements.

Importance of training

- Training
 - In pandemic a lot of training has moved to virtual
 - Not enough in person, hands-on training to get training time requirements
- Training doesn't have to be limited to EMS official classes
 - The importance of training folks on how to respond through basic fundamentals such as CPR and best practices of response, where to and to not park in an emergency, really basic information that can keep others safe.
- How money/stipends can be helpful
 - Considering who pays for the trainings
 - Long Island approved stipend money for folks to stay on island during the weekends
- Training with other communities and pooling training resources
 - For example, Chebeague and Long Island training together

Recruiting (younger) folks

- The importance of reaching out to younger folks and invite them into the process. This includes communication, support, and encouragement
 - Acknowledging that childcare is a hurdle for many young folks
- The need to create a culture of younger folks volunteering and participating
 - There are young people who are participating -Donna's example of taking an EMS class
 - Frenchboro -selectboard and schoolboard members are all young and very involved

Communicating best practices to community members

- Communicating the status of EMS to new people and summer people

- Putting up signs that state that there are not EMTs on island and communicating the need to call 911
- Communicating the unique issues related to talking with dispatch
 - For example, dispatch will go to State Police or to a different county. People need to know to ask for specific regions to get the help as fast as possible.

Off Island Emergency Services

- For islands who do not have ferries that “stay” on island it can be important to have emergency boats
 - Long Island has an emergency boat that can be used for medical emergencies that is operated and manned by the community
- Life Flight -pros: resources and timeliness; cons: expensive, not always clear when to call
 - LifeFlight can be very expensive and can be overused -importance of acknowledging when it is necessary to call
 - Having LifeFlight as a resource can create “a false sense of security”
 - The importance to communicate how LifeFlight works
 - They may not be available depending on the current demand for their services
 - Recently sent out information related to landing zones and creating them
 - The importance of setting up new confirmed landing zones
 - Having people practice
 - Does demos for communities and can provide information related to their services through presentations
 - Maine State Ferry Services requires communities to call life flight first before the ferry is called out
 - Swan’s Island has created a code to indicate they want Life Flight to deny service because it isn’t life threatening so they can use the ferry.
- Coast Guard
 - Coast Guard has put in new rules
- The importance of LifeFlight, Coast Guard, Ferry Services communicating about services

Financials

- Vinalhaven: patients are billed through the community/town
- Most services are paid for by local property taxes
- Pat Lundholm mentioned two types of grants that towns can apply for -she will send more information