

Date: November 18, 2022

Time: 10-11am

Facilitators: Kate Tagai, Island Institute and Kendra Chubbuck, Isle au Haut

In Attendance

MIC Members: Co-chair Kendra Chubbuck, Isle au Haut

Mark Greene (Long Island), Ellen Mahoney, Mary Anne Mitchell and Faith York (Peaks Island), Bob Earnest (Chebeague), Gabe McPhail (North Haven), Cheryl Crowley (Cliff), Rachel Bishop (Frenchboro), Peggi Stevens (Isle au Haut), Jennifer Fox (Great Diamond)

Great Lakes Island Alliance: Beaver Island: Bob Anderson

Maine Seacoast Mission: Douglas Cornman

Maine Legislative Staff: Christina Breen (Senator King); Barbara Hayslett (Representative Golden); Sarah Lawrence (Representative Pingree)

Island Institute: Kate Tagai, Brenna Cohen, Alex Kravitz, Lisa Millette, Alex Zipparo, Abby Roche, Yvonne Thomas, Caroline Moore

Island Fellows: Paige Atkinson (Eastport), Melanie Nash (Long Island), Katie Liberman (Columbia Falls), Kaylin Wu (Vinalhaven), Brianna Cunliffe (Mount Desert Island), Liv Lenfestey (Islesboro), Olivia Jolley (Swan's Island)

Updates

Legislative

Breen (King): covers Hancock and Washington County, succeeded Chris Rector

Hayslett (Golden): based in Caribou office and is district rep for Aroostook and Washington County, covered Katahdin region for Senator King and Rep. Golden, appreciates the fellows

Sarah Lawrence (Pingree): based in Portland; focus on arts, education, economic development, health, trade, transport, and housing, I cover a variety of issues for her around the district. Please be in touch if we can be helpful to anyone 207-774-5019 and sarah.lawrence@mail.house.gov.

Maine Seacoast Mission

Sharon Daley will retire Dec. 31st and will continue to live on Islesboro, the Mission is searching for a nurse to fill her position, continue commitment to island health and healthcare in all capacities; reach out to Doug at dcornman@seacoastmission.org with thoughts, questions, or concerns.

Great Lakes Island Alliance (GLIA)

Bob Anderson reports that their Mott Foundation Grant will renew funds for next two years for GLIA, winter weather has set in across the region.

[Island Institute](#)

[Applications](#) for small business grants are open. Applications to host an Island Fellow will open in January, reach out to Lisa Millette at lmillette@islandinstitute.org. You'll speak with our staff first and they will send you the link to an application to apply. This is so that we know who is applying and can provide support, as well as coordinating possible multiple applications from the same community. Kate goes on maternity leave Jan. 1. Brenna is point on MIC and Lisa is your point on Fellows.

Main Topic: Fellows introduce themselves and discuss their projects

Melanie (Long Island): 2nd year. Developed comprehensive plan, last year community engagement, interviews, etc. and then writing, town vote passed the plan unanimously. Submitted to state now waiting for approval; Chairing implementation committee for the plan, high need and high priority, revaluation process for island, working with Mark Greene and assessor Bob Konczal to redraw property cards, researching how to digitize current property cards.

Kaylin (Vinalhaven): 1st year. Works at the K-12 school helping teachers and students use technology effectively in the classroom. Coaches students on robotics programs and teams and there's a competition on 12/3. Would love to connect with anyone.

Mia (North Haven): 2nd year. Working on community planning with Gabe McPhail and in her 2nd year of her fellowship. Last year started a visioning project and now refined it to 3 community priorities: access to housing, workforce development, and climate change impacts and environmental sustainability. They're interconnected and all communities are struggling with them. Strategizing on solutions with limited resources. Working on a Sea Level Rise education event through the [Community Resilience Partnership](#) and GMRI, as well as longer term planning.

Liv (Islesboro): 1st year. Working at the Lighthouse Museum to catalogue all artifacts and rewrite their mission statement. Gathering narratives of people on the coast and working with the sea level rise committee. Sees Lighthouse as point of communication in particular around vulnerable spots such as the Narrows and the road.

Hallie (Deer Isle/Stonington): 2nd year. Working with Healthy Island Project on Digital Equity and supporting seniors on Deer Isle/Stonington.

Brianna (MDI): 1st year. Working with A Climate to Thrive to help the island achieve its goal of energy independence by 2030. This includes expanding community owned solar, installing solar arrays for churches and working waterfronts, connecting low and middle income homeowners and renters with heat pumps. She's conducting community education and outreach such as the pilot Climate Ambassadors training program, which empowers locals to take action and communicate climate science to affect change. They're launching a state version that's free and open to the public.

Olivia (Swans): 1st year. Is archiving, digitizing, and organizing the Historical Society's collection. She's also writing grants and bolstering the oral history collection. This requires building trust within the community to gather stories and offer what would best serve the community.

Katie (Columbia Falls): 1st year. Preserving stories of wild blueberry lands and glacial barrens at the Wild Blueberry Heritage Center. This involves grant writing, managing donor prospects, assisting local teachers to develop projects and eating lots of blueberry pies.

Kawai (Machias): 2nd year. Working with Sunrise County Economic Council working on publicity and social media to promote their activities.

Paige (Eastport): 2nd year. Works with the City of Eastport on energy and community resilience. They need backup power because they're at the end of the transmission line. Energy resilience includes weatherizing homes so that people can stay, live, and age in the community. She also works on the Community Resilience Program and is tying this program to other work in Eastport. Happy to connect.

Comments & Questions for Fellows:

Gabe: I have great appreciation and learning from collaborations with Fellows. All of our communities are blessed to have you with your dedication, focus, passion, and your adaptability. You create an immeasurable impact.

Kendra: Isle au Haut enjoyed and loved our Fellows. They're a total asset to communities and we cry when they leave. This program is phenomenal. Kudos to II for this program.

Ellen from Peaks: These are phenomenal projects. I'm the mother of an Island Fellow, was a host and was in the first cohort of island leadership fellows years ago. What's one thing you've learned about your work and yourself?

- Liv : Independence. I'm comfortable going to events by myself because I can start a conversation with anyone. I'm settling into living on my own and building a community.
- Bri: Independence, building trust from scratch, learning to listen, and technical knowledge takes backseat to community needs.
- Olivia: It's difficult to save history and share your personal life with an organization. I feel the emotions of seeing people's celebrations, seeing several generations here. I'm happy to be welcomed and allowed into that space and it's more responsibility and power than I anticipated.
- Kaylin: The privilege of working with students. They're creative, funny, and seeing them work with problems is wonderful. I saw all of my students in their costumes on Halloween. I see them in school and in the community and I like that.
- Paige: Strength and leadership in municipal governments. Eastport is the smallest city in US. The staff's dedication and passion to serve the community inspires me. I work with a great group of women.
- Katie: I'm the oldest fellow in the cohort. My career as a marine biologist and then retail manager has been driven by opportunity rather than me steering the ship. I see so many different career paths open. Now I'm unlearning, learning to be patient and meet people where they're at.

As your communities and community partners, what do you need from us?

- Paige: Willingness to engage on any and all topics.
- Brianna: Information sharing so that we're not duplicating efforts.

- Liv: Share what you do and what resources are available to me. Let's have meetings that explore what you and your organizations do.
- Mia: As a 2nd year fellow, think about the sustainability of our projects. Knowing that they're designed for a 2 year timeline and the limited capacity in communities, how will we sustain them beyond our fellowship term. How do we ensure that as we plan for the future we either wrap up the project or have capacity for the future. Can other community members take on some of these aspects? Think about this early.
- Katie: Find resources through networking, these connections are helpful, we find donors or people who want to share their stories on the topic. With our oral histories program, I'm navigating industry politics. Connecting with more people outside of my advisor. We want to showcase everything in wild blueberry history.

Winter Survival Tips: Funds on the island to help community, activities on the island

Mark: Surviving the summer is harder as things get back to normal for the winter. Our wellness council restarted soup lunches and weekly meals on wheels. There's pickleball at the community center. We encourage folks to walk the pickleball court, have tea and coffee, play cards and boardgames. A reading group formed and the knitting group reconstituted. The Bake House is open Tues and Friday. Gas w/Ron and More, i.e. soups. The Boat House store is open on limited hours so our morning coffee hour is in a fisherman's basement.

Kendra: The book club, volleyball, stitch n' bitch, cribbage tourney, murder mystery dinner night NYE, snowshoeing and x-c skiers, lots of reading, you make it what it is. Tuesday's table, monthly community supper paid for by the church and you buy the ingredients at the local store. Tax prep in January. We're resting because summers are killing us. They come earlier and leave later, can't close the rental units, summer people stay 'til Xmas, runs into full timers time.

- Olivia's Murder Mystery recommendation <https://www.huntakiller.com>

Bob E: Quiet time decreases over the year. I think of the Wood Bros love song. The select board cranks up with the budget process and zoning issues with the flurry of development. Thanks to all of the island fellows for your work.

Ellen: Do these fun things, get out of the meetings, make some friends outside of your generation, have dinner/coffee once a week with someone. The value that you bring to our communities is immeasurable, you bring a vibrancy to our communities. I started a monthly concert series in collaboration with the church and 60-90 people came last week. The vibe is catching and there's a high caliber of musicians. Broaden your horizons, get outside every day. There's no bad weather just bad clothes. I'll help you figure out how to layer for winter.

Cheryl: Learn new hobbies. There's secret talent on our islands. Our wellness center is our way of gathering people – paint by numbers, the hookers, opportunities for little things – balance exercise group, go out and try things.

Paige: How can new Fellows find these things?

- The bulletin boards, your advisor, list serve, postmaster, clerk at the store, the pastor, yoga instructor, someone who seems popular. Get out of your comfort zone, everyone on islands know what it's like to be out of your element. We're all shy. People are more than willing to help and invite you for dinner.

Closing: Kendra, Kate, Roger, and Brenna will set the calendar for next year. Please send us any burning topics to cover. Thank you for joining us. Happy holidays!