

Maine Island Coalition
Friday, October 20, 2023
10 am – 2 pm
Island Institute, 386 Main St, Rockland, ME

10:00 AM Welcome from Co-chairs, Ellen Mahoney (Peaks Island) & Kendra Chubbuck (Isle au Haut)

- Kendra and Ellen's first meetings as the cohorts; thanks to Roger for leading and for the confidence for the two of them to lead into the future.
- Updates for MIC Annual Report: more on dues to later. Annual report will go into individual town reports. Two islands haven't paid their annual dues (will not be publicly recognized); Roger will get that info to the co-chairs and Alex.
- Next meeting: Zoom Nov 17 10-11 am: Topic: substance use disorder and services available. Gordan Smith in governor's office and Healthy Acadia recommended to attend/lead.
- Note from Donna (Swan's Island): One hour felt short for the transportation meeting. How do we feel about lengthening the meeting time? Ellen: open to scheduling the 90 minutes and if we wrap up early that's ok.

10:15 AM Island Updates

Swan's Island: Busy summer, lousy weather. Happy to roll into fall and have things quiet down. Ferry issues – not being able to take ambulances. One captain retiring, deck hand retiring, one captain left to go to relief pool. Town meeting in March and likely a new select person to come on board. Broadband installers have been working super hard (paid by the mile). Drops to the house are supposed to happen by Thanksgiving. Bill will drop for \$90/month (star link) to \$30/month (through TDS - lowest broadband still faster than starlink). Thank you to the delegation.

North Haven: received community action grant along with VH and fox island thoroughfare. Focused on energy transitions and replacing street lights with LEDs – starting that process now and will go into the spring. Commuity (A Climate to Thrive) Ambassdor training in the spring. Will be looking for folks interested in joining that. New Public Safety Building just about completed (hoping to be finished by end of November) and longer term will be great to get solar in that area. Waterfront project: adapt Thorofare to climate change pressures, congestion, multi-uses – started evaluation process for an engineering firm to due a vulnerability assessment of the Thorofare. Hoping they will be able to work with the island throughout the process: assessment, planning, and implementation all with community engagement throughout.

Seacoast Mission: went out to casco bay and went to peaks and cliff islands. Interisland event with the Island Institute. Beginning a care navigation program focusing on gaps in care and preventative health. Got the flu vaccine out to the islands; getting the covid vaccine out and it has been cost prohibitive (requiring them to purchase the vaccine). Looking for regional partners and/or grants. Sarah said to get in touch with Pingree's office. Golden's office is hearing about supply issues and medicare billing. \$130 out of pocket. Need a third party in order to bill. Educational series and hoping to use MIC to help with

outreach and information; this will be done by zoom. 1st one was around the well-water testing program with Island Institute fellow Morgan. Alex Z will help create an outreach list.

Frenchboro: ferry pen expansion is done so ready to receive new ferry when that might happen. Road projects: head of the harbor is falling apart, working on grants for that. Change over on the selectboard. Fighting for our livelihoods as the lobster industry is under high pressure from NOAA rulings and offshore wind. Federal trackers are arriving (will the information be kept proprietary?). Looming decision of minimum lobster size to be raised. Note from Ellen: let's make the lobster industry a regular check-in item and maybe a topic for a winter meeting.

Cranberry Isles: after the fire at the general store (last Christmas), it is being rebuilt! Goal is to open this winter. 2-year school rotation just ended on Great Cranberry so switched to Islesford at the Ashley Bryant school.

Vinalhaven: Downtown project – 7 million from 3 different funding agencies. Replace water pipes, infrastructure work on waterfront such as boat ramps, and resilience against SLR in downtown area especially the parking lot. Working through easement process now. 1st phase to EDA. Gabe McPhail is helping a lot and feel thankful for the folks that have been immersed from the beginning.

Isle au Haut: The Isle au Haut Community Development (ICDC) is having their annual meeting on Sunday, October 29th. This year, in addition to summarizing their accomplishments and challenges for the past year, reporting on our financial condition and electing a board of directors for the ensuing year, Hannah Pingree will be the guest speaker and be on the Island to give a presentation on the opportunities and concerns of the unbridged, year-round occupied islands in Maine from her perspective. School started with 2 preschoolers and 2 older girls. On August 5th the Island had two deaths: Dottie Dodge the former postmistress (96 years old) and Rev. Ted Hoskins our minister for over 40 years. There is a great article in the November Issue of the Working Waterfront about him by Robin Alden. In September there was a birth on Kimballs Island! It was a girl! She was two weeks early. Been very busy this summer on the Island. Lots of tourists this summer.

Cliff Island: Cheryl Crowly remains committed but had another meeting to attend to. One student but 2-3 headed toward school age. Great teacher with a dedicated apartment for that teacher (took over a year-round home and finishing up a 2nd apartment in that home). Wellness center is now three years old and has been an important addition to the community. Roger reappointed on Land for Maine's Future board focusing on working waterfront projects (been about 3 working waterfront projects awarded and hope to fund more).

Peaks: Tuesday – covid/flu vaccine clinic on Tuesday (through Northern Maine) 265 showed up for shots. Had climate and cultural assessment and were recently presented with the analysis and working groups will come out of that. Last one had been 20 years prior and 20 years before that. Home start moving forward converting parish hall to 3 affordable units. Kids are in school. Cruise ships will be gone soon.

Matinicus: hasn't been on island very much lately. No kids in school.

Peaks: Last week we held a Covid and flu vaccine clinic. 265 folks took up the shots.

Things are getting quieter, most seasonal business' are closed and summer water will be shut off beginning October 25th.

Community Cultural and Environmental Survey and was completed and the public meeting was held. 50ish folks attended and workout groups to address issues raised will convene.

GLIA: thank you for letting Matt and others from GLIA observe these meeting. Important to hear the topics as well as the process to meet and work together. 20 islands, huge geography (Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Ontario). Similar challenges of representation, meetings, climate, waste management, housing, etc. Parallel lives just in different regions so hope to continue to liaise and work with this group. Working on a strategic plan. Hopefully we will be able to come up with some things that Maine can benefit from as well.

Legislative Updates

- Sen. Collin's office: house is closed however, both sides of the isle working on appropriations bills so that they will be ready. Sen. Collins headed to the Middle East. CR expires 11/15
- Sen King's Office: housing crisis is the biggest issue we're hearing across the state. Thank you for thinking housing. Several CDS projects in the balance but there is paralysis.
- Rep. Pingree's Office: excited about bill to reduce waiting period for asylum seekers (Collins and King are also proponents). Currently 6 months and would like to reduce to 30 days. Appropriations – steps have been taken; bills are prepared for when the house reopens. Reps can submit 15 earmarked projects, and all are still being considered (all in appropriations bills).
- Rep. Golden's Office: Golden really working across the aisle for temporary power for the standing speaker (while waiting for a new one to be instated). All 15 earmarks in. All the offices here work together which is a huge positive. DMR is ramping up workforce to look at the effects on lobster industry.
- State Sen. Nicole Grohoski (Hancock): some committee's meeting to get a head start on work for next year. Housing committee is still meeting, and they are always accepting feedback on possible solutions for the state. Creative ways to help islands fund road infrastructure; transportation committee is sympathetic to the issue but unsure where to find this money without leaving others in need. Balanced budget is in the state constitution. Please send Nicole your ideas as colleagues are always interested in learning more and to visit your communities and how to better serve you.
- Island Institute Policy Updates (Nick Battista): Maine Climate Council kicked off action plan in September. If you have climate related things, great time to get in touch. Office of Economic and Community Development is starting their processes. Blue Economy task force kicking off later this winter looking at pieces adjacent to the marine economy and how to attract investment in those businesses and keep Maine a leader in this sector. Opportunities coming through federal

and state money – great time for these higher dollar projects; aggregated projects can reach those higher dollar federal and state requirements.

11:04 AM Revisit 2011 Strategic Plan

1. Alex has created a google folder for MIC to house all these documents. Select documents will be shared with congressional delegates.
2. Ellen proposed focusing today on the work plan for 2024 and a relook at the strategic plan in 2024 (maybe at the Augusta meeting). All in favor.
3. Planning process needs:
 - a. Who are the formal representatives and designated alternate?
 - i. Action item: send these official representatives to Alex by 10/17. This is important to our work.
 - b. Topics for 2024 from Survey results:
 - i. the highest result was MIC building interisland relationships to address emerging issues together.
 - ii. Representation, Transportation, and Funding are high-level issues to MIC participation and success. Who takes this on?
4. Meeting cadence
 - a. Quarterly meetings:
 - i. 2 in-person 3-hour meetings, include lunch,
 - ii. 2-3 zoom 90-minute (Spring, Summer)
5. 2024 Meeting Schedule:
 - a. January/February meeting in-person in Augusta (March won't have the attention of the legislators)
 - b. Summer/early fall zoom meeting with legislators invited to get items on the legislative agenda
 - c. September/October in Rockland at Island Institute Office
 - d. Ad hoc meetings as needed
6. Notes:
 - a. MIC report: submit by mid-January in order to get into town reports. Alex will work with Kendra and Ellen to get that sooner.
 - b. Donna, Swan's Island: noted that some of the most valuable things that happen with these in person meetings is the networking over lunch. Both reps *and* alternatives attending the meetings. There are no fisherman around the table because meetings are in the middle of the day. Same with caregivers and those with day-jobs.
 - c. Frenchboro, Isle au Haut, Matinicus and Monhegan (certain times of the year) don't have ferry runs to allow for a day trip. Requires an overnight. Kendra is given \$500/year for dues, mileage, and over nights. Donna is able to submit for reimbursement. Worth talking with selectboard or assessors to cover these trips? Small community grant? County funds through Maine Community Foundations? Kate Tagai reminded Alex that originally MIC was a quarterly thing in person and the pandemic made the need for meetings jump to at least 1 meeting per month

- i. Kendra will write up a draft article for folks to submit to their selectboards and/or assessors to cover dues, mileage, and overnight stay(s)
7. Suggested meeting topics:
- Leadership: Municipal capacity – breakout situation?
 - MIC could ask Island Institute to plan and lead something
 - Lobster & fishing industries invite someone from DMR to attend (Pat Keliher)
 - Housing
 - Climate and Climate resiliency, citizen science projects, & how to talk to your community invite Blue Hill Peninsula Tomorrow's Allen Kratz (model for how they're working together); consider the Climate Ambassador program and if they'd do a zoom training
 - Shore-line erosion

Final Meeting calendar proposed and approved for next year:

- Nov 17 on Zoom: substance use disorder
- Jan/Feb in person in Augusta: transportation, housing, substance use disorder
- May on zoom: bring to the meeting “what are the trainings you or your municipal leaders want? What are your emerging training needs?”
- September: emerging legislative issues & support needed *invite legislators.

Strategic plan: Action items

Within next 2 weeks:

1. people will identify who the representative and alternate is on their islands and email these names to Alex Zipparo **by EOD Friday, November 3rd**
2. review the existing strategic plan and write up comments/changes OR express that you think a new one is needed and email to Alex Zipparo **by EOD Friday, November 3rd**

12:00 PM Break for lunch

12:15 PM Honoring Roger Berle for starting the MIC, his tenure co-chairing the coalition, leadership on Cliff, and collaboration with other island leaders

1:20 PM Island Institute Fellows Update: Lisa Millette (Island Institute)

New fellows:

Alice Cockerham (Hancock County Fellow, Hancock County Planning Commission): Alice works with Hancock County Planning Commission to transition their resources to be more digitally available and assisting towns they support with comprehensive and resilience planning.

Morgan Karns (MDI & Outer Islands Fellow, MDI Biological Laboratory): Morgan is working with the community lab at MDI Biological Labs to collaborate with citizens on some of the outer islands in a statewide initiative to test drinking water for heavy metals and plastics. Partnering with the Seacoast Mission to get the word out to the communities, Morgan will focus on working alongside seniors and schools on how to sample their water.

Lavinia (Livy) Clarke (Machias Fellow, Sunrise Trail Coalition): Livy is working with the Sunrise Trail Coalition in engaging communities to engage with the trail more fully for transportation, recreation, and community building.

Grace Carrier (Brooklin Fellow, Brooklin’s Climate Response Committee): Grace will be working with the newly formed Climate Response Committee of the town of Brooklin. She will work with committee members to connect individuals, business owners, and municipal leaders to energy and cost saving programs.

Claire Oxford (North Haven Fellow, Town of North Haven): Claire will be working closely with town staff and committees to shore-up North Haven’s working waterfront from recent and future storm surge and sea level rise.

Returning Fellows (will finish August 2025)

Kaylin Wu (Vinalhaven Fellow, Vinalhaven School): Kaylin works with the Vinalhaven school supporting technology integration from pre-K through 12th grade. She also leads a growing Lego robotics club and other technology centered after school and summer experiences.

Katie Liberman (Deer Isle & Stonington Fellow, Mariners’ Soar!): Katie supports after school and summer programming on Deer Isle & Stonington, working with the local program Mariners Soar! to expand their offerings in the region.

Brianna Cunliffe (MDI – Tremont Fellow, A Climate to Thrive): Brianna works with A Climate to Thrive on Mount Desert Island focusing on education and community-based climate action including support for the town of Tremont’s Community Resilience Plan.

Olivia Jolley (Swan’s Island Fellow, Historical Society): Olivia works with the Swan's Island Historical Society to structure and digitize their archives, manage volunteers, curate exhibits and museum displays, produce oral history collections and multimedia content, and write grants for building restoration projects.

Olivia (Liv) Lenfestey (Islesboro Fellow, Sea Level Rise Committee): Liv works with the Town of Islesboro’s Sea Level Rise Committee to support community-wide resiliency and adaptation planning. This follows her first year of her fellowship curating and reopening Islesboro’s Grindle Point Lighthouse Museum.

Now is the time to think about if your community would like to line up a fellowship project.

Host sites are typically a municipality, town entity (such as a committee or society), non-profit, or other community organization.

We do not place fellows at for-profit businesses.

Fellowship projects have:

- a clear need for added capacity
- a two-year, time-bound project or proof-of-concept position
- one community member with the capacity, time, and vision to be an on-site advisor to a fellow
- at least one additional community member to help integrate and network the fellow into the community
- 14k per year to provide to Island Institute to support housing costs for the fellow (can be a match through housing)
- Ability and willingness to help Island Institute find suitable housing for the fellow

Application timeline:

Now – January: pre-application meeting with Kate Tagai or Lisa
January 31: Host Site Applications* Due
End of February: notification of selection
March 17: Fellows applications due
Late April/early May: interviews with prospective fellows (you determine who gets hired)
Summer: MOUs completed
*application link is received in pre-application meeting

Contact Lisa (lmillette@islandinstitute.org) or Kate (ktagai@islandinstitute.org) with questions or talk about a potential fellowship project.

1:50 Meeting Adjournment

Next Meeting: virtual/zoom November 17, 10-11 am