

Jim Green
President
Ned Nalle
Vice President, Nominating
Gary Madeira
Treasurer & Secretary



Will Hudson
Cammie Disston
Marnie Phillips
Whitney Drayton
Perot Bissell
Jack Katz
Fran Fremont-Smith
Elizabeth B. Johnson

MISSION

Section I.1. The Mission of the SRA/TMD is to provide an effective means of communication between the summer residents and the Town Leadership on issues that concern the current and future well-being of the Town. The Board of Directors of the Corporation seeks to represent the views of the summer residents and to keep them informed of, and involved in, the Town planning process on current and future issues.

Section I.2. SRA/TMD seeks to be the timely and constructive voice of the summer residents with the Town government, working closely with the Town leaders to preserve and protect the unique character, culture, environment, and quality of life of the town, through both a voice and financial contributions to further the mission of the Summer Residents Association.

Annual Members Meeting Agenda

5:30 pm, Tuesday, August 16, 2022 held at 123 Main Street, 50 members in attendance

5:45 pm After guests arrived and were seated, Jim Green opened the meeting with a few welcome remarks and introduced Judy Benson the President of the Mount Desert Medical Center. Judy informed the group that the center has been open since August 8 and will go forward as a year-round clinic. It has been given a bright new facelift, and will be open Mondays 8-12, Wednesdays 1-5 and Fridays 8-12. Dr. John Urbana will be leading the team and they will be adding specialists. They have received positive reception in their first few weeks, and she invited the group to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony on August 29th; noting that the descendants of the original 5 board members would be there. <https://www.mdihospital.org/health-centers/northeast-harbor-clinic/>

5:50pm Jim Green recognized the hard work of all the SRA Board members. He noted that these board members are the ambassadors and the voice for the Summer Residents and to pass on opinions and questions to them so they could in turn bring issues and concerns to the Board's and the Town leadership's attention.

5:55 Jim introduced Kevin Schneider, the Superintendent of Acadia National Park.

Kevin thank the SRA Board for inviting him and the members for their attention. He said the SRA contributes to the strong sense of place that defines Acadia. Jim then gave the members an update on the goings on in Acadia. He noted that though visitor-ship was down slightly from last year, this was still the second busiest season on record for the park. He explained that park officials were worried that people had forgotten about the Island Explorer bus system because it had been put on hiatus during Covid, but that their fears were unfounded, and the Island Explorer is back in full swing. After a successful summer schedule, it is now moving to a fall schedule (due to being short staffed). Kevin segued into the conversation equally important as year-round housing, and that is seasonal housing. He noted that ANP had 165 seasonal spots to fill for 2022 but was only able to house 85 out of the 120 people that were successfully hired. He stressed that to run the park properly, housing is the number one concern. He noted that while there is federal money for fixing existing structures and programs, not much exists for new building proposals. He also told the group that ANP is working with Friends of Acadia for private funding (He welcomed Eric Styles as the new head of the FOA) and Senator King for government funding. Senator King is heading a national committee on housing as this problem is nation-wide. Kevin revealed that ANP has 55 acres of land that was set aside in the fifties to build a waste transfer station for all five towns on the island, but all five towns decided the land was not needed for this purpose and they are working with the town governments to allow the land to be used for housing. 40 acres is proposed to go to Bar Harbor for their own housing and 15 would stay with the park to ease the workforce housing issue in Acadia. Kevin gave an update on the historic Maple Brook and Maple Springs Trails. The park has been able to make the Maple Brook trail usable again and is working towards making the Maple Springs Trail usable as well; but noted they will focus on simple repairs and that the historic features will not likely be rebuilt. Both trails are now more advanced as the storm from June 2021 created more of a scramble than a hike. Kevin reviewed the new reservation system for going to the top of Cadillac Mountain. He said it has been successful in managing congestion and now they're happy to report 150 cars fill 150 spaces for each sunrise. Kevin

also reviewed the outcome of the American Aquafarms quest for a permit in Frenchman's Bay. He noted the permit was denied and that the Aquafarm group withdrew their request. He did say that they may come back and try again and the park officials would be watching for that. Kevin ended his update with the news that the park acquired the Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse and has a couple living in it, which has been great for keeping up with maintenance and giving it a more alive feel.

In the Q and A that followed, a member commented that the trails are in great condition this year and he noticed the gates to the park stayed open through the winter. Kevin responded by informing the members that the park has always keep the gates open 365 days, year- round but last season manned them and charged for entrance and made \$600,000.00 in revenue. This revenue stays in ANP and is used for maintenance. Another member noted that crossing the roads at Eagle Lake and Brown Mountain Gatehouse was getting increasingly more dangerous each summer and asked if the Park had plans to address the issue. Kevin replied that the roads are state-owned, and the park is not allowed to put in cross walks, speed limits or pedestrian overpasses, but they were looking into moving the Eagle Lake parking lot to the Liscomb Pit area to get it off the main road. Kevin concluded by giving his contact info if anyone had further questions:

kevin_schneider@nps.gov

6:10: Jim Green spoke on the link between the summer and local residents. He noted the town's loss of two great local ambassadors Buddy Brown and Dana Haynes. Jim introduced Tom Brown who spoke about his father.

Tom remembered Buddy as part of the greatest generation and a man who cared about, and was a cornerstone of, the town. He gave his time to every project that came along to make the town better: The Seaside Inn, the Kimball House, The Neighborhood House, the airport, the medical center, the drug store, the golf course... He also noted that Buddy was working on the local housing issue as far back as 1964 and it is not a new issue. Tom and Kelly shared that they have a stack of handwritten letters between Buddy and many summer residents detailing projects that were coming up and discussing how to best work together to move the towns, not just NEH, but all the towns, forward together. With all these projects the town had a hustle and bustle about it that is missing today. Tom spoke about how there is a different vibe in town now. He noted that the season used to be the whole season but now it is fragmented into July groups and August groups and that the unnoticed effect of this has been a fragmenting of how people take care of the town. Tom ended by saying he missed Buddy and he missed the hustle and bustle of the town and that he hoped we could all help it return someday.

6:20: Jim Green introduced Ned Nalle, Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Ned commented that the SRA is trying to, as Buddy Brown did, make sure all the towns that make up the Town of Mount Desert are represented on the Board. Ned presented the nominees for the 2022-2023 board:

Frances Freemont-Smith (Somesville)
Elizabeth "Lillie" Johnson (Somesville)
Jack Katz (Otter Creek)

Jim Green asked for a vote and the new nominees were all unanimously voted onto the Board by the fifty members present.

6:25: Jim Green introduced Wendy Littlefield to speak, remembering her father, Dana Haynes.

Wendy offered a funny, endearing and joyful talk about her father and his connection to Northeast Harbor and the island. Her main point and his, is that we are all in it together and each can work hard and make the island a better place. The "US" is stronger than any one person. Dana Haynes had a big heart and the work ethic to make things happen...as Wendy said, "He had no hobbies, his hobby was work and he worked to make sure locals and summer residents alike got what they needed. In doing so, he passed on the work ethic and the love of the community to his family and all of those who knew him"

6:37 Jim Green made closing remarks on the importance of community and participation. He let the members know the SRA would be reaching out periodically for input and opinions on how the group can continue to support town projects like the new beautification plan at the marina, the proposed ice skating rink on the tennis courts and the many layered approaches to the housing issue (year round and seasonal). Jim welcomed the new board members and bid a farewell to departing board member Chris Reece. He invited guests to stay and the group enjoyed each other's company until 7pm.