

Maggie Hays  
*President*

Bill Roberts  
*Vice President*

Gary Madeira  
*Treasurer & Secretary*

John Boynton  
*Nominating*



Matthew Baird

Jim Green

Will Hudson

Ned Nalle

Chris Reece

## 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

5:00 pm, Wednesday, August 18, 2021 Town Hall Meeting Room, Northeast Harbor, 23 members in attendance

### Welcome Remarks: Outgoing President, Maggie Hays and Moderator, Jim Green

**Durlin Lunt, Town Manager :** Durlin spoke on the topic of the Ambulance Service. He started by saying this conversation would be best had next year as all the details would be worked out then but was able to give an overview of what was coming with the dissolution of the Volunteer Ambulance Service and the absorption of the service by the town. He noted that the volunteer service was started in 1936 and is the oldest non-profits in Maine but even in its heyday, it was forewarned that it would eventually become unsustainable. The reason it is unsustainable is because of the lack of volunteers to man the service. While one option would be for a for-profit company to take it over, it is not ideal as the town wants to be able to maintain the standard of response and care. In that spirit, the Ambulance service will become a municipal service in January 2023 and will be manned by the fire department personnel; who will be cross trained as EMTs. He noted it will feel different but familiar at the same time. The volunteer service has been raising money for a new ambulance this year and they will turn that new vehicle over to the municipal service as well, for a total of 2 ambulances. Details will become clearer in the next year as to the facilities at which the ambulances will be kept. Durlin finished by noting this is one of the biggest things he's been involved in in his 50 years in town government.

**Matt Hart, Board of Selectmen :** Matt spoke on the Broadband initiative. He noted that our wi-fi and connectivity needs were mostly, if somewhat unsatisfactorily, being met by Time Warner / Spectrum until Covid came along. The need for solid connectivity for zoom calls and remote learning exposed the big gaps and sub-par service in many areas of the island. A committee was formed to investigate what options and processes would be needed to bring a fiber optic network to the island to fix this issue and get great coverage and connectivity for the largest percentage of the island possible. Matt noted that fiber optic networks are still the gold standard and will continue to be, so the committee is focusing on it as the solution. The biggest challenge is to have all the moving parts ready so that when the plan is approved, we can act quickly. In that vein, the committee has reached out to Vetro Fiber Max (at no cost to the town) to take an inventory of what we offer and to give an idea of what a fiber optic network would look like for this island. When Spectrum and Consolidated come around asking "Where do you see your networks", we will have an answer and be able to work together. The committee has set up workshops and meetings to engage the public, the last being on August 10<sup>th</sup>, featuring a guest speaker from Connect Maine and the next meeting will be August 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:30. The committee also sent out a survey to each home with this year's tax bill; asking for input on individual needs. They have received 100 responses so far. You can also find the survey on the town website <https://www.mtdesert.org/broadband-committee>

Matt also answered Jim Green's question about whether there were funds in the Covid relief packages. He said that in the new infrastructure bill and the Covid relief bills, there is an estimated \$300-\$400 million dollars in grant money available for providing broadband. Perot Bissell asked if there was any way to be creative in dipping into different sources of funding and is there someone specifically focused on sifting through the different sources of funding so we don't overlook an opportunity. Matt responded that funds would filter down to the community level, to the town office level, through Connect Maine. They would determine what meets the federal and state requirements and award the funds appropriately. Finally, Matt answered a question about the estimated timeline of this project: two years at a minimum. He stressed the most important thing was for us to be ready so we could act quickly when funds become available.

**Judy Benson, Board President of the MDI Medical Center :** Judy spoke about the plan to re-establish the clinic on Kimball Road in Northeast Harbor with an estimated opening of Spring 2022. The clinic was established as a non-profit organization (501c3) in 1967 after Medicare became law and thus the payment for healthcare was expanded to seniors and thus MDs had to bill for services. Local residents and summer people of NEH obtained donated- land, raised the funds and then appointed a board from members of the local community to oversee the building and management of the building and finding two MDs and a dentist to staff the center. manage it. The challenge was and is how to provide medical care at a high level in a small community. MDI Hospital began to offer medical services only during the summer season once the Center was not able to hire full time doctors. The hospital was not able to open the seasonal clinic due to COVID in 2000 and 2021. The pandemic brought with it masking, disinfection and shone a new light on the possibilities for the clinic. The Board asked: What can we do to meet the needs of MDI? Re-establishing the clinic has strong support. Jim Green asked: How will it be staffed? What will the hours be? Judy replied: The goal is for a full-time clinic, Monday-Friday, with physicians, physician's assistants and rotating specialists (a challenge for a small population). The goal is to be open for an extended season. Bill Roberts asked: What challenges are you facing? Judy replied: The biggest challenge is getting staff. It is very expensive to have a rotation at a small clinic where a PA or doctor may spend the day simply waiting for a patient to need their services. Judy was very optimistic that we are at the point where this should not be an issue and we should get the traffic needed to run the clinic successfully. Judy mentioned the board and volunteers have been hard at work quietly and has not created a website or advertised in a public way, so there is no link to share at this time. Bill Roberts asked that she keep us in the loop so we can share any information with our members.

**Announcement the elections and introduces the nominees:**

Whitney Drayton, Cammie Disston (not present), Marnie Phillips (not present), Perot Bissell. All were elected unanimously.

**Board elections:**

The SRA board for 2022 is:

Jim Green, President

Gary Madeira, Treasurer and Secretary

Will Hudson

Cammie Disston

Perot Bissell

Ned Nalle, Vice President, Nominating Chair

Chris Reece

Whitney Drayton

Marnie Phillips

**Closing remarks:**

A fond farewell and heartfelt thanks to our departing board members: Maggie Hays, John Boynton, Matthew Baird and Bill Roberts

**Meeting adjourned 6:05pm**

