

# Summer Residents Association

Spring 2011

A Publication of the Summer  
Residents of the Town Mount Desert

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'm just back from a short week on Mount Desert for the Town Meeting and the island was beautiful with the trees just starting to bud, the golf course opening and summer not far away. The Revitalization Committee, sponsored by the Summer Residents and the Selectmen, has been busy meeting all winter and you can read the results below in the Revitalization Committee Report to the Selectmen.

Town Elections and Town Meeting were held on May 2nd and 3rd. Selectman Marilyn Damon resigned her seat in February. In addition, Selectmen Jean Bonville and Chuck Bucklin chose not to run again. Therefore, three new Selectmen were elected to the Board of five and all ran un-opposed. Those elected to a three year term are John Macauley from Otter Creek and Dennis Shubert from Seal Harbor. The remaining one year of Marilyn Damon's seat will be served by Sumner Rulon-Miller of Northeast Harbor. They will join Tom Richardson of Otter Creek and Rick Mooers of Somesville who remain on the Board.

The Warrant for the Town Meeting is on the website ([www.mtidesert.org](http://www.mtidesert.org)). All articles passed which will raise property taxes by 1.72 percent or \$10 per \$100,000 of valuation. Briefly, among other items, the voters approved:

- \$1.5 million for rebuilding almost three miles of sidewalks

in the villages of Somesville, Seal Harbor and Northeast Harbor;

- A zoning change to eliminate side setback requirements for new or renovated buildings in Northeast Harbor's village commercial district; (this amendment was encouraged by ReStore NEH in order to encourage new development in the village);

- Updated zoning amendments to adhere to state mandated requirements;

- The acceptance of a gift of money to buy a \$35,000 boat to be used as a passenger launch at the Northeast Harbor Marina to alleviate the overcrowding at the dingy float. Harbormaster Sean Murphy and two other Town employees will operate the launch and service will begin this summer.

## REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE REPORT

### *Resident Members*

Kathy Branch  
Katie Bell  
Buddy Brown  
Stephanie Kelley-Reese

### *Summer Resident Members*

Lanie Lincoln  
Hamilton Clark  
Ed Lipkin  
Kathe Gates McCoy

The Revitalization Committee began meeting in the late summer of 2010 and has met at least once a month since then, either in person, by conference call, or by video conferencing. The Committee was guided by our invaluable Facilitator Ron Beard of the University of Maine

Extension Service and insight from Town Manager Durlin Lunt, as well as input from many townspeople including the new Executive Director of the Mount Desert Chamber of Commerce Khristina Landers. Based on this work, we presented the following report to the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Mount Desert.

### SRA Board of Directors

Elaine Lincoln, President  
Hamilton Clark, III, Vice President  
Charles Merriman, Treasurer  
Carolyn Brauer, Secretary  
Kathe Gates McCoy, Nominating  
James Clark  
Temple Grassi  
Edward Lipkin  
Mary Morgan  
Anderson Pew  
Hamilton Robinson  
Jan Russell  
Richard Scott  
Warwick Wheeler

Contact:  
The Summer Residents Association  
of the Town of Mount Desert  
PO Box 790  
Mount Desert Me 04660

### SRA Mission Statement

The mission of the Summer Residents Association of the Town of Mount Desert 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 Steering committee (Board of Directors) seeks to represent and to keep them informed of, and involved in, the Town planning process on current and future issues.

The Summer Residents Association seeks to be the timely and constructive voice of the summer residents with Town government working closely with Town leaders to preserve and protect the unique character, culture, environment and quality of life in the Town of Mount Desert.

**Recommendations to the  
Town of Mount Desert  
Board of Selectmen  
from the Revitalization  
Committee**

---

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

*Primary recommendations:*

---

1. Seek recommendations from the Marine Management Committee regarding expansion of the Northeast Harbor Marina beyond the current shore-side improvements, focusing on dredging for additional moorings and partnering with private developers for likely new businesses associated with a marina.
2. Engage a Technical Assistance Panel from the Urban Land Institute (ULI), in the summer of 2011, to assist the Town of Mount Desert and all its villages to work on the strategies presented in this report and others to revitalize the economy of the community.

**Background on Urban Land  
Institute and Technical  
Assistance Panels**

*Since 1947, the Urban Land Institute (ULI) has harnessed the technical expertise of its members to help communities solve difficult land use, development, and redevelopment challenges. Over 500 Technical Assistance Panels (TAP) have been conducted in 12 countries.*

*TAPs are one and half-day, intensive working sessions where our expert panelists address a set of questions proposed by the sponsoring organization - a*

*local government, non-profit organization, or developer — about a specific development issue or policy barrier within a defined geographic area.*

*[http://www.uli.org/  
CommunityBuilding/  
AdvisoryService/  
TechnicalAssistancePanels.  
aspx](http://www.uli.org/CommunityBuilding/AdvisoryService/TechnicalAssistancePanels.aspx)*

---

**SECONDARY  
RECOMMENDATIONS:**

---

- a. Ask Town Manager to list and review implementation of strategies from the 2007-08 Town Comprehensive Plan, determine appropriateness in 2011, and rework priorities, assign responsibilities to various committees and staff for implementation and establish reporting deadlines
- b. Add municipal capacity to assist the Town Manager to coordinate, monitor, and report on progress of future planning and economic / community development efforts endorsed by the Town or Selectmen.
- c. Ask the Town Manager, with assistance from members of RE-Store, to continue work on draft policies to permit community functions such as farmer's market's, art shows and concerts on town-owned land, such as the Green at the marina.
- d. Endorse action by the Revitalization Committee to generate further recommendations from a task force made up of representatives of appropriate municipal and private sector groups for signage and "street-scape" improvements as a way of making all the villages of Mount Desert more

welcoming and visitor friendly (groups may include Marine Management Committee, RE-Store, Chamber of Commerce, Village Improvement Societies, Revitalization Committee)

The task force could also develop strategies to improve the visual appearance of the town and all of its villages. As part of its work, the task force could

- Encourage the Chamber of Commerce to develop and offer a beautification workshop

- Seek involvement of College of the Atlantic landscape students and faculty to suggest simple, cost effective landscaping and "streetscaping" projects

- Discuss with town manager ways to improve street cleaning and various other projects

- Seek involvement of Garden Club and Master Gardeners for various projects, including hanging flowers in business district of Northeast Harbor and other villages

- Work with the Historical Society and Chamber of Commerce to develop special recognition of 250 Years of Incorporation, perhaps through flags and banners

- Work with the Chamber to create additional marketing materials for the town, including so-called "branding" of the community to attract visitors and year-round businesses

- Work with the Chamber and interested citizens to pilot a self-guided walking tour of the Main Street of Northeast Harbor, using ten small numbered sign boards placed at historical sites, coupled with a map and brochure

- Work with the Chamber to funnel citizen suggestions for various improvements to village appearance to the business community.

*Follow-up: The Task Force has met twice with many members of the community giving input with great ideas and we are looking for ways to implement these new plans. The new director of the Chamber of Commerce, Khristina Landers, has been very helpful and will be a great new resource for the Town of Mount Desert.*



---

## OTHER NEWS FROM THE TOWN

---

At a special Selectman's meeting on April 29, 2011 the Board awarded the construction contract for the Northeast Harbor Marina Redevelopment project to E.L. Shea Builders of Ellsworth in the amount of \$2,027,668.50. Construction is to begin in October and completion scheduled for next June.

The use of the green in the harbor area is still being discussed with various uses proposed. The town is conferring with other towns for the wording to be used in contracts with the organizations who may wish to use the green.

The Acadia Disposal District (ADD) has changed and improved the recycling program for the Town of Mount Desert. This change will allow us to recycle many more items including magazines, flyers, office pa-

per and #1- #7 plastics. For more specifics, please go to [www.mt-desert.org](http://www.mt-desert.org) and look under Public Works.

A surprise announcement of the bankruptcy of Associated Grocers of America has made it necessary for the Pine Tree Market and other local food stores to find another supplier. Aaron and Erin Gray, who were surprised by the bankruptcy, are working hard to update their supplies and are going forward with business as usual.

A proposal to build an AT&T cell phone tower at the Northeast Harbor Elementary School ball field or other town owned property has been rejected by the Selectmen.

In Seal Harbor, the owners of the old Town Market are appealing to the Planning Board their Conditional Use Permit.

---

## NEW PROPOSED PROJECT: 141 MAIN

---

There is an exciting potential project for the empty lot just south of the Kimball Shop boutique where the Joy Building once stood. It is conceived by Bob and Nancy Ho, owners of



the lot. In their words:

"Our hope is to create an innovative, robust retail venue in Northeast Harbor to help restore and revitalize our community. The project is designed to be accessible from both Main Street and Tracy Road. Walking down Main Street, pedestrians will experience an inviting connectedness to all three levels of the building.

"The building will have over 6,000 sq feet of conveniently configured spaces for retail, professional and service rental. The interior is laid out for easy traffic flow - any point of entry on street level can take you through the entire building. Kimball Boutique can be attached and opened to 141 Main on the north side; to the south, Colonel's Restaurant is accessible from the deck walk.

"Although we propose three optional floor plans for the second floor (a 60-seat restaurant with a wine bar, a 5-room boutique B&B, or an art gallery), our preference is for a boutique B&B..

"Marketing the project this winter and spring is the next step. We want substantial square footage (60%) pre-leased prior to construction, and need help to identify and reach out to rental prospects."

To see the drawings and schematics please go to [www.lelah-cole.com/141](http://www.lelah-cole.com/141).

Bob and Nancy are currently looking for people who would be interested in participating in this development and you can contact Bob Ho at this address: hobob@aol.com. So far, Bob reports that two restaurateurs with island followings have inquired about 141 Main.

## IN CLOSING

It is imperative that we all work toward revitalizing our Town, and with that in mind, PLEASE

support our local businesses when you are in the villages. I am looking forward to seeing you all in Mount Desert this summer and hope that you will renew your membership in the Summer Residents Association. Please feel free to email me with any questions or concerns at lanie@pamola.net.

Lanie Lincoln, President



## Town Office Contacts

**Town Manager**  
Durlin Lunt  
[manager@mtdesert.org](mailto:manager@mtdesert.org)

**Town Clerk**  
Joelle Nolan  
[jnoland@mtdesert.org](mailto:jnoland@mtdesert.org)

**Town Assessor**  
Kyle Avila  
[assess@mtdesert.org](mailto:assess@mtdesert.org)

**Finance Director**  
John Graves  
[treasurer@mtdesert.org](mailto:treasurer@mtdesert.org)

**Administrative Assistant**  
Jennifer McWain  
[jmcwain@mtdesert.org](mailto:jmcwain@mtdesert.org)

**Code Enforcement Officer**  
Kim Keene  
[ceo@mtdesert.org](mailto:ceo@mtdesert.org)

**Fire Chief**  
Michael Bender  
[firechief@mtdesert.org](mailto:firechief@mtdesert.org)

**Harbor Master**  
Shawn Murphy  
[harbormaster@mtdesert.org](mailto:harbormaster@mtdesert.org)

**Police Chief**  
James Willis  
[policechief@mtdesert.org](mailto:policechief@mtdesert.org)

**Public Works Director**  
Tony Smith  
[publicworks@mtdesert.org](mailto:publicworks@mtdesert.org)

PRST STD  
US Postage Paid  
Ellsworth, ME 04605  
Permit # 73

