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Vice President, Nominating
Gary Madeira
Treasurer, Secretary



Chris Reece
Will Hudson
Cammie Disston
Marnie Phillips
Whitney Drayton
Perot Bissell

Spring 2022 Newsletter

The President's Remarks

We are well into 2022 and heading towards another beautiful summer season. I am pleased and excited to work with our new board members and our goals this year are threefold. First: We plan to improve our communication with our members. We will be adding a Facebook page and an Instagram page in addition to our newsletters and we hope to focus on keeping you up to date in the off season so you can focus on everything summer on the island brings. Second: We plan to increase our presence as a voice/ bridge to our members and the local government. Third: We plan to revamp how our annual meetings are held. We realize time is valuable in the summer and we want to make sure we provide an opportunity to meet, discuss local topics and elect our board members in a way that attracts a higher attendance. Please watch for news and dates on the annual meetings. Read on for more and get ready for the season!

Jim Green

Main Street Project Update

The new poles are set and the conduits have been put in the ground so the lines can be drawn across the street and out of sight.

Spectrum has completed most of their work and once the phone company schedules their part, the old



poles can be taken down. This year's work is scheduled to be complete by May 31, including putting the next layer of pavement down to bring the street 1" from the final height. Still to do: Landscaping, surface paving (fall), finishing the parking lot at the north end of the street (wiring the e/v charger), the pop out park and the triangle park at the end of the street.

Recycling is Back!

You can bring your recyclables to the DPW depot on Sargeant Drive again. One container will be for cardboards and the other for plastics and all other recyclables. Our containers will be sent to Casella's facility in Old Town and then to Lewiston for sorting and shipping.

Other news from Tony Smith

The town will be leasing a new sidewalk plow and has ordered a new dump truck (estimated delivery, spring 2023). The town is working with A Climate to Thrive on their climate action plan. One action item is to move towards electric vehicles for the town's fleet. As the technology is not quite affordable for the larger vehicles, replacement will go in waves, with the smaller vehicles being replaced first. Included in the plan is the cost of hiring and or retraining mechanics to work on electric vehicles and to install charging stations at the DPW depot.

director@mtdesert.org

Tax Assessment is in progress

The notices of new values will be going out in June so that homeowners will have the opportunity to meet with the tax assessor for clarification and to review the valuations, before the new tax bills go out in July. New valuations are based on the real estate market and given the current one the assessor expects most sectors will see an increase. Another variable that is taken into account during assessments is the town budget. The town budget this year includes a sizeable increase as we must address the issue of fire department and the ambulance/ EMT service. The infrastructure costs will be covered with a bond but hiring 8 full time employees with salaries and benefits is included in the town budget.

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Your Voice

How can summer residents have a say in our local government? Short of changing your residency to the state of Maine, there are several other ways: Summer residents can speak at the town meetings. You must be there in person to interact, but did you know you can also watch the live streamed town meeting on YouTube (link below)? You can also attend any number of Board of Selectman, Warrant Committee and other committee meetings too. In person or in a Zoom format, all residents can participate in these meetings. And you can join or continue your membership with the SRA. We plan to increase our efforts in communicating with the local government so our member's concerns and comments are heard. Our membership fee is \$25 annually. Digital invoices and newsletters go out each spring and can be paid online. And, while we are trying to reduce our footprint, we still send paper newsletters as well, to a small portion of our membership. In an effort to communicate more in the off season, we are starting a new Facebook and Instagram page as well, so please follow us on one or both to stay up to date!

The Town Meeting is at 6:00 pm, on May 3, 2022 at the elementary school on Joy Road. All residents are welcome. To watch a recording or subscribe: www.youtube.com and enter Town of Mount Desert, Maine. An exact link for the live streamed event will be announced.

If you haven't been to our town website, check it out:

mtdesert.org

To follow us on Facebook: **Summer Residents Association, town of Mount Desert**

To follow us on Instagram: **Summer Residents Assoc MDI**