

Lili Pew  
*President*  
Maggie Hays  
*Vice President*  
Gary Madeira  
*Treasurer & Secretary*  
John Boynton  
*Nominating*



Matthew Baird  
Larry Goldfarb  
Will Hudson  
Howard Lapsley  
Ned Nalle  
Chris Reece  
Bill Roberts  
Kent Schmidt

## **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 Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, August 21, 2019  
Neighborhood House, Northeast Harbor

Board Members present: Lili Pew/President, Maggie Hays/Vice President, Gary Madeira/Treasurer, Matthew Baird, Larry Goldfarb, and Ned Nalle, (not present John Boynton, Chris Reece, Will Hudson, Howard Lapsley, and Bill Roberts)

I. Lili welcomed all and introduced incoming Board President Maggie Hays, as Lili terms off. She then read the SRA Mission Statement, and introduced the Board Members, along with Recording Secretary Joelle Nolan.

As prescribed in the by-laws, Lili, on behalf of the Board, nominated Jim Green as a Board member for a three-year term beginning today through August 2022; second by Mr. Anderson Pew; vote was unanimous in favor. She thank retiring members Larry Goldfarb, Howard Lapsley, and Kent Schmidt for their service.

II. Town of Mount Desert Updates-Durlin Lunt, Town Manager  
Durlin explained the focus of the updates would be the Public Safety departments. He described them as the greatest strength and asset the Town has. The members are creative, dedicated, and make good use of available resources. He introduced Fire Chief Mike Bender who in turn introduced Assistant Chief Tom Wallace, Captain David Higgins, Lt Bruce Walton, and Lt Amilie Blackman. Chief Bender started with a brief history of the Mount Desert Fire Department which was created in 2001 by Town vote, combining the previous four village fire companies (Otter Creek, Seal Harbor, Northeast Harbor, and Somesville). What started with 51 volunteer fire fighters and 1 full time Chief has morphed into a combination department with 4 full-time staff and 16 on-call fire fighters, of which thirteen reside within the Town of Mount Desert. The well trained fire fighters maintain an apparatus inventory of six vehicles; respond to calls from work or home at all hours of the day and night and in all kinds of weather; provide emergency services such as structural fire

suppression, vehicle extrication, wildland fire suppression, open water and ice rescue, and search and rescue; provide non-emergency services including flooded basements, fire prevention programs at local schools and libraries, community service projects, fire extinguisher training, chimney, fireplace and wood stove inspections, shelter openings, open burn permits, and station tours.

Chief Bender suggested residents can assist the fire department by keeping driveways clear for emergency vehicle access, ensuring residences are visibly marked with the house number (contrasting 3 inch high and 3 feet from the ground), and installing a Knox Box for fire department access to unoccupied buildings (especially those with a key holder that lives a considerable distance away).

Lili also suggested installing an electrical power shut off providing the ability to quickly turn off power in the event of fire.

In response to a comment about volunteer service being a nationwide problem, Chief Bender agreed and noted some of the issues are the amount of required training, less spare time, and an aging population. And to the question of how to obtain a Knox Box, he suggested looking at the Town website ([www.mtdesert.org](http://www.mtdesert.org)) and/or visiting him in his office.

Durlin described how the Town shares its Police Chief with Bar Harbor and the operationally integrated departments, which gives access to two full departments. He introduced Lt David Kearns from Bar Harbor and Lt Kevin Edgecomb from Mount Desert (Police Chief Jim Willis was out of town).

Lt Kearns, second in command, assists the Chief, along with two patrol Lt's (Lt Edgecomb and another in Bar Harbor). They oversee the captains and 17 officers who deserve kudos for making the agencies work. Currently there is a supervisor on duty 19 hours a day, 7 days a week. There are two full time dispatch centers; and all Hancock County agencies operate on the same system which allows real time access. He invited all to stop by either department with any questions.

Lt Edgecomb noted he has been with the Mount Desert Police Department for 21 years and is in agreement with the combined departments which increases officer safety, along with better and more effective responses.

When questioned about the drug issues and what the department is doing, Lt Kearns replied there is one officer assigned to the Maine Drug Task Force, and two officers have been certified in drug recognition and to detect impaired drivers.

III. Northeast Harbor Ambulance Service-Basil Mahaney, Service Chief and Margaret Houghton, Crew Chief  
Basil described the non-profit, which was created in 1938 as part of the Fire Company, as a self-sustained, 35-member operation which includes Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics, and drivers with someone on duty 24/7 at the Northeast Harbor fire station. Equipment includes two advanced life support ambulances thoroughly equipped to equal any large city emergency vehicle. They work regularly with other departments on the Island; and in addition to 911 emergency calls, they respond to Acadia National Park calls, inter-facility transfers, and fire department stand-by's, including Cranberry Isles. He went on to read a letter from Clayton Bright (permission granted), an emergency patient aided by Margaret Houghton, making the point that even a small agency can offer a very big service with dedicated staff.

When asked if any thought had been given to stationing ambulances throughout the Town, Basil replied it had been considered but due to cost and the majority of calls being from Northeast Harbor implementation has been put on the back-burner.

He was also asked how the Service continued to exist as a non-profit. Basil said they do fund raising, but are struggling since they are no longer strictly volunteer.

#### IV. Economic Development- Rick Wheeler

Rick reported that the Economic Development Committee was recently made a Standing Committee by the Board of Selectmen and as result has expanded its membership, has a newly approved governance structure, and will be taking a fresh look at its priorities.

The committee is comprised of six summer residents (Averel Wilson, Don Graves, Minot Weld, Jamie Blaine, Wendy Wood, and Rick Wheeler), year round individuals and business owners (Nancy Ho, Stephanie Kelley Reece, Heather Jones, Kathy Miller, Seth Singleton, Sam McGee, and Daniel McKay) and ex-officio non-voting members Selectmen Matt Hart and Martha Dudman, Town Manager Durlin Lunt, and Public Works Director Tony Smith. It is hoped that Micki Sumpter will join when she takes up her new role as Director of the Mount Desert Chamber of Commerce.

Although the committee's focus is obviously economic development, a second focus will be on upgrading communications. All committee meeting dates, agendas and minutes will be on the Town's website. A fact sheet about the committee is being created, and an informational meeting will be held at 6 pm, September 9, 2019 in the Meeting Room, Town Office building. The community is encouraged to attend and share ideas relating to economic development. For those who cannot attend, they are encouraged to email ideas and thoughts to the committee, which can be done through the Town's website.

On August 5, the Board of Selectmen reviewed and had a positive reaction to design plans for a potential, privately-funded Promenade Park on the edge of the parking lot just across from the Dockside (known to some as the Little Gray Cow parking lot). The proposed Promenade Park is part of Phase 2 of the Village Improvement Plan. It is on hold until Phase 1 is completed next spring.

In response to a question on how the committee is interacting with Mount Desert 365, Rick said they are working very closely, and its director Kathy Miller has recently joined the committee.

#### V. Acadia National Park- Rebecca Cole-Will, Chief of Resource Management

Rebecca gave a brief but thorough report on the health of forests within Acadia National Park. Although there are concerns about pests and fire potential, the forests are amazingly healthy. However, they are facing a future of unknown threats. Northeast Temperate Network led by Kate Miller, Plant Ecologist, is a program that helps Acadia document and keep track of the health of a wide array of park natural resources. Breeding birds, forest health, rocky intertidal communities, water quality, and more are monitored each year by the network to give park managers the most current information possible so they can make the best-informed decisions about taking care of the park. The park is super healthy, with a low number of invasive exotic plants; forests are regenerating; and the deer impact is minimal.

When asked about spruce beetle spore damaging the trees, she replied the beetles are not the issue, it's red pine scale. Diseased trees posing danger [by falling onto roads] have been removed; others will be left to let nature take its course.

In response to what is being done about invasive traffic, she responded there is an approved transportation plan which the Park will start implementing with a reservation system in a couple of years. And when asked about managing the deer population, she explained the Park does not cull because the population, in the Park, tends to manage themselves.

VI. MDI Search and Rescue- Davin O'Connell, President

Davin arrived in full gear and proceeded to give a summary of how they started and what they do: in 1982 after a 100 people successfully searched for and found two young boys in Otter Creek, the need for an organized search system was realized. MDI SARS was incorporated in 1982. One of its first rescues was off Otter Cliffs. Membership is completely volunteer and very diverse. They subsist on donations, grants, and their own resources. There is no paid staff. Although most rescue services are male dominated, MDI SARS is half female. Rescues have increased from 2 in 1982 to 32 in 2018. They also do a lot of searches on the Island, in Acadia National Park and throughout the State. They work with Baxter State Park one week-end per month during the summer season; help on Katahdin during the winter; work with fire departments for training; and work closely with the Coast Guard. They are the first rescue team in the State to be awarded the *Maine EMS Merit Award*.

VII. Mount Desert Nursing Association-Mazzie Gogolak, Board Chairman

Mazzie described the location of the Association's office (across from the Library, at 12 Summit Rd) and how it was established by Gordon Falt in 1949 to provide nursing care to both year-round and summer residents of the Town of Mount Desert. Now it serves all of the towns on Mount Desert Island and the Cranberry Isles with an increase in patient census by 600%; is certified to take insurance; and accepts Medicare. She declared we are "locals taking care of locals".

Christine Milds, Clinical Director, talked about the many services provided, including, but not limited to, home health aides, skilled nursing, occupational therapists, and physical therapists. Out of the 16 clinicians, only one does not live on MDI. Their goal is to keep patients out of the hospital and in their home. She also encouraged people to use their Loan Closet which is free of charge; and to visit the website at [www.mountdesertnursing.org](http://www.mountdesertnursing.org)

Durlin and Lili gave an informative "show and tell" on how easy it is to use the Town website to access information and sign up for E-Alerts, which provide automatic emails with news, announcements, and agendas. A simple, efficient way to stay informed. [[www.mtdesert.org](http://www.mtdesert.org) on the Home page, click on @ E-Alerts (left hand side of the page), enter your email address, click on the items you want to receive, click on "I am not a robot", click on Subscribe]

VIII. Open Discussion with Membership

Sea Lights Holiday Festival-Katie Bell

Katie explained this was started last year to welcome fishing boats and ferries during the holiday season. There were two very successful cruises on the *Sunbeam* to view the lights. She urged Northeast and Seal Harbors to light up. More information will be available in the coming fall months.

Mr. Pew asked those present to thank Durlin Lunt for his dedication to the Town; a resounding applause followed.

#### Future Meeting Dates

Any thoughts or requests regrading dates and agenda topics can be sent to Maggie, Lili, or Joelle.

A question concerning the congested parking at the Northeast Harbor Marina, especially during farmers market days, was answered by Durlin, and he said he would certainly take a look at it; they are always trying to make the parking area more efficient.

IX. Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joelle D. Nolan  
Recording Secretary