

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.

General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 17, 2019
Neighborhood House, Northeast Harbor

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

I. Lili welcomed all and introduced the Board Members and Recording Secretary Joelle Nolan

II. Town of Mount Desert Updates: Durlin Lunt, Town Manager

Durlin stated the Town is moving forward and referenced his newsletter included with the tax bills. We are three months into the Main Street project, with the majority of the work being underground. The parking lot beside the Knowles Company has doubled in size. Next summer there will be substantially more changes: sidewalks widened, overhead wires moved, and a base coat of paving. There are not a lot of new initiatives this year other than cross walks. Some have been eliminated and some brought into compliance with ADA/MEDOT safety requirements. There has been major work on staff training, which makes for good customer service. He reported the Hall Quarry project is working through the Planning Board, which hopes to address sound suppression.

Lili mentioned her letter, presented as a hand-out with the agenda, thanking all for their support of this town, recapping her time on the Board, and reminding all of the ability to receive email notices from the Town's website (www.mtidesert.org) by clicking on "E-Alerts" on the homepage. It's an easy, efficient way to stay informed about Urgent Alerts, News and Announcements, and Meeting Agendas.

Lili took a moment to recognize the passing last night of beloved resident and neighbor Robert Taylor.

III. Economic Development: Rick Wheeler, Representative

Rick reported the big news is that this spring the committee was elevated to a Town Standing Committee under the authority of the Board of Selectmen, indicating the long-term commitment of the town to economic development. Agendas and minutes will be available on the Town's website. Membership increased to 14 members, six of which are summer residents; the others are business owners and active members of the town. The committee's focus is economic development and upgrading communication within town factions. A Fact Sheet is being created, and there will be a community informational meeting September 9 at 6 pm. The Committee wants to hear from everyone as it looks at priorities for the future; people are encouraged to send emails (to Committee members) with comments and questions if they can't attend meetings. A specific example is the Board of Selectmen meeting Monday, August 5 at which there will be a review of plans for the Promenade Park. Rick emphasized the need for participation and sharing of thoughts.

IV. Mount Desert 365: Kathy Miller, Executive Director

Kathy gave some background information on this fairly new nonprofit; the purpose of which is fostering a sustainable year-round community while preserving its natural environment. She noted during the past few decades the year-round population has decreased and there are more seasonal homes than primary homes for year round residents, school population is reduced, and there are fewer businesses. Their goal is to increase the year-round population. Staff is comprised of Kathy and Alex Birdsall, with new office space at 149 Main St., Northeast Harbor. The Board is comprised of half summer residents and half year-round residents. And its vision is based on the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

Their hope is to have the year-round population restored to an appropriate size. To that end they are acquiring land to build homes, working with the LUZO guidelines for design, and creating mechanisms for sustainability. The economic focus is to attract new businesses to expand services such as health and wellness, and personal and professional services, while supporting existing businesses. Village lots have been acquired at Old Firehouse Lane, Main St, Summit Rd, Neighborhood Rd, and Manchester Rd. Construction has begun at Old Firehouse Lane for a two story, 8000 square foot building. The first floor will be leased to the Seacoast Mission for 10 years; the second floor will house MD 365 office space, and two apartments. Completion date is projected to be August 2020. There are plans to construct two attached residences on the Summit Rd lot, one with 3 bedrooms and the other with 2 bedrooms. Completion is expected by the end of 2020, with year-round affordability covenants.

The second Business Boot Camp in March 2019 was very successful. Ten local businesses participated with 19 mentors, and three judges. Audience Choice Award went to Bar Harbor Oyster Company, and Judges Choice Award was Milk & Honey, at \$5,000 each.

V. Island Housing Trust: Marla O'Byrne, Executive Director

Marla explained she began her job last September and became the full time Director in January. The focus of the Trust is to provide workforce housing for people to live and work on Mount Desert Island. Since 2008, they have created 41 homeownerships. They build neighborhoods, develop partnerships, provide Bridge Funding, and solicit and accept land and house donations. Most recently they renovated and sold to Margaret Houghton 13 Sylvan Rd here in Northeast Harbor. Other projects include 112 Beech Hill Rd to be sold within a month; amended covenants to allow Old Dog Bakery to come into Ripples Hill; and the transfer of ownership of roads to the Town.

An MDI housing study from 2018, partnered with towns, Acadia National Park, Jackson Laboratory, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, and MD 365 showed that 54% of MDI workers commuted from off the island; over 78% of MDI households were unable to afford the median home in their respective towns; and since 2000, the median home values for MDI towns more than doubled, while incomes rose between 31% and 65%, depending on the town.

IHT purchased 30 acres of Jones Marsh on Route 3, Bar Harbor, for a year-round 9 to 12 energy efficient house neighborhood that is permanently affordable to people earning a median income on Mount Desert Island.

VI. Acadia National Park: Rebecca Cole-Will, Chief of Resource Management

An informative and sometimes amusing slide show gave many interesting updates:

- July 5 was the busiest day in the history of ANP with 35,000 visitors. Cadillac Mountain was closed and almost all visitor service centers were shut down due to congestion. There were 4 emergency call outs for MDI SARS and ANP.
- Wildlife biologists are working on a major project involving an endangered bat species. The bats are a keystone resource because they eat 10,000 mosquitos a day. Biologists carefully capture the bats, put radio receivers on them, then release them. And, the bats are coming to Northeast Harbor – they like shingle style cottages as homes. Park biologists might ask you to allow them to view your back yard.
- Peregrine falcons are doing well, and are no longer on the endangered list.
- Vegetation management includes the removal of dead Red Pine trees near roadsides, especially along Sargeant Drive.
- The Transportation Plan was signed off by the Secretary of the Interior in March. They are now working on implementation which will include a reservation system for high use areas. There may be more opportunities for concession and contract tours to relieve pressure on big buses.

Lili praised the Park staff for their incredible job in spite of shut-down conditions and less staff. Good work.

VII. MDI Search and Rescue: Davin O'Connell

Davin started with an overview of what the team does and its history. In 1980 two young boys were missing in Otter Creek and over 100 people were involved in the search, which made people aware of the need for a search team. MDI SARS was incorporated in 1982. One of its first rescues was off Otter Cliffs. Membership is completely volunteer and very diverse. 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. He foresees 2019 being higher, with 14 rescues so far. The busiest times are May to October. He described three types of rescues: carrying out of patients, which can be arduous and difficult depending on trail conditions; steep angle rescue, using a rope rescue system with pulleys; and vertical rescue using a litter, which would be needed for areas such as Otter Cliffs or the Precipice. They also do a lot of searches here 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.

Darin gave an overview of what happens during a search and rescue with a vivid slide show. He stressed the importance of their excellent communication with ANP and their really good relationship.

VIII. Mount Desert Nursing Association: Mazzie Gogolak, President Board of Directors; Heather Lewis Executive Director; Christine Mild, PT, Director of Clinical Services

Mazze described the location of MDNA, which was formerly the Red Cross building, at 12 Summit Rd, diagonally across from the Library and next to Katie Bell's Studio. MDNA is a local home healthcare agency providing skilled nursing, home health aide visits, physical therapy, and occupational therapy. MDNA is the last piece of the healthcare chain.

Heather gave a brief history of MDNA, which is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year, and explained the current Medicare services. She noted their referrals from local hospitals and out-patient clinics, along with care coordination with patient doctors. MDNA is well known for its durable medical equipment loan closet, free of charge for MDI residents.

Christine described the huge task of MDNA becoming Medicare certified, which led to it providing services to all of MDI and the Cranberry Isles. She reiterated the services and the fact they are given without regard for ability to pay.

IX. Northeast Harbor Ambulance Service: Scamp Gray President; members Kelly Brown and Margaret Houghton

Scamp began by reading a moving letter from Clayton Bright (permission to be read) praising the ambulance service for the care given to him during a recent heart attack. Scamp went on to give a brief history of the creation of the service which started in 1938 when they borrowed \$4000, bought a Packard, and all an attendant needed was a driver's license. Fast forward to the early 1980's when Kathy Suminsby became its first paramedic, at her own expense. In 2010 they realized they were not getting the responders needed to adequately provide the services and added on-call and duty system with pay. Today they pay people to be on duty 24 hours a day; and for the first time in its history asked the Town for \$10,000.

Kelly described the ambulance attendants as our friends, neighbors, and shopkeepers. They invest in our youth, and are involved with community outreach through blood drives, CPR classes, first aid classes, and flu shot clinics. They also provide mutual aid island wide and with Cranberry Isles. They participated in a mass casualty drill on the Otter Cove Causeway in Acadia National Park, along with Park personnel and emergency responders from Mount Desert Island and beyond.

Lili thanked all for attending and noted the Annual Meeting will take place August 21.

X. Meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joelle D. Nolan
Recording Secretary