

**Summer Residents Association
General Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2016**

President Donald Graves opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. with a warm welcome.

Board members present: Vice President Averel Wilson, Treasurer Phil Moriarty, Secretary Lili Pew, Nominating Officer Jan Russell, John Boynton, Larry Goldfarb, Sid Graves, Maggie Hays, Lynn Janney, Bill Roberts, and Kent Schmidt. Also present were members of the SRA, the public, press, and Recording Secretary Joelle Nolan.

Financial Report

Treasurer Moriarty gave the Financial Report as of June 23, 2016:

Cash on hand Bar Harbor Bank & Trust \$8,694.80

Vanguard/Wellington Fund \$58,760.41

Vanguard/500 Index Fund \$6,700.67

Membership Report

Averel Wilson reported on membership through July 13, 2016:

264 renewals resulting in \$6725, and additional gifts for Economic Development \$7,215

SRA President Don Graves commented that the Association's commitments to the Economic Development efforts in past few years might have accounted for higher gift amounts in previous years.

Town Report

Town Manager Durlin Lunt spoke to the state of the Town which he described as "good". Some of the challenges facing the Town are aging population, lack of youth, and attracting younger individuals to participate in municipal government.

He noted goals for the coming year include moving the Economic Development program (which was 50% funded by the SRA over last few years) into the Chamber of Commerce to allow for more flexibility in the program to, for instance, run movies, put on car shows, etc.; continuing the effort to bring internet (broadband) service to the community, reminding all of the survey included with this year's tax bills; and village revitalization.

Don Graves noted the creation of the Town of Mount Desert Economic Development Corporation whose focus is business retention, attraction, and support.

NEH Village Center Plan & Visioning Discussion

Visioning Committee Chair Sam Coplon spoke of the community outreach report done last fall from a town wide survey. There was a good response as to what people want to see in Town. From the survey, Richardson & Associates developed a Northeast Harbor Village Center Plan – a template and blueprint for the future to use as a basis for comments.

The plan encompasses the downtown core area which is difficult to navigate, not pedestrian friendly, and needs a facelift. Some suggestions from the Plan include: improve Summit

Road/Main Street intersection; one-way pattern year round; eliminate angle parking to widen the street and have parallel parking on both sides of Main Street; more and improved sidewalks; improve Main St/Neighborhood Rd intersection; make Tracy Rd one-way and provide better opportunities to access; more parking; and a better pedestrian connection to the waterfront.

Slides showed an overview of the plan and gave sketches of examples of parking, intersections, etc. Due to wider sidewalks for better pedestrian access, actual parking spaces would show a net gain of 6 – 8 spaces on Main Street, but overall would net zero with other configurations (east of Main and Tracy). Although parallel parking takes longer, it's a trade-off for safer and better travel.

Some of the questions asked were: Is there consideration for kids on bicycles? How is this study different from the prior traffic study? [More broad based and comprehensive i.e. open spaces, opportunities for redevelopment and mixed use.] How to attract vendors? What would be the economics? This plan was generated from consultation with an economic developer. Another idea is to have a trolley system from the marina to Main Street.

Chamber of Commerce Report

President Graves introduced Lisa Parsons, President of the Chamber of Commerce, who gave a recap of some of the jobs that have been transitioned to the Chamber from Town of Mount Desert Economic Development Consultant Jacqueline Hewett and the Events Committee: directory signs for Town (another year); Town brochure production and distribution, including event cards (rack cards) and Chamber mapping guide; and the advertising and execution of events.

She noted Chamber numbers are up again this year (by 400 in June); and there is a growth in membership with 11 new members so far.

Broadband Committee Status Report

Lili Pew along with Jeff Burnham talked about the interviews with the internet providers mentioned in the Tilson report. They looked for existing service, where and what level of service is provided; expansion plans and cost of; areas with no service; and how to improve service in those areas that have it. There is a focused plan for follow through. When asked what is a possible scenario of what might happen internet-wise in a year, Mr. Burnham suggested viewing the Tilson report (available on the Town's website (www.mtidesert.org) which contains important and relevant information. Burnham noted the current providers are only here to make money, they don't want to work together, nor are their systems compatible. Burnham promotes the Town building its own network, even though it is expensive.

Lili said the committee is looking into grants, there are many available. She also mentioned the availability of office space for rental on Main Street, Northeast Harbor which includes very fast internet service.

Marina Landscaping Report

President Graves stated the SRA has contributed funding along with the Garden Club and Town to re-landscape around the Chamber and Harbor offices. Work will start in September or October.

There being no other questions or issues, the General Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

The Board held a brief session to vote on the proposed amendments to the Bylaws as presented at a prior meeting.

MOTION: Kent Schmidt moved, seconded by Lili Pew, to accept the proposed amendments to the Bylaws as presented and dated July 20, 2016. The vote was unanimous.

The Board meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lili Pew, Secretary