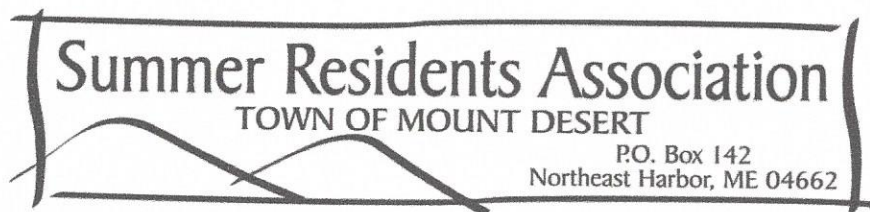


Lili Pew
President
Maggie Hays
Vice President
Averel Wilson
Treasurer & Secretary
John Boynton
Nominating



Matthew Baird
Larry Goldfarb
Sidney Graves
Will Hudson
Howard Lapsley
Gary Madeira
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
4:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 18, 2018
Neighborhood House, Northeast Harbor

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

I. SRA Welcome – Mission Statement: Lili Pew, President

After a warm welcome to all, Lili read the SRA Mission Statement and made the point that the SRA is open to anyone, not only summer residents. It is a voice for all. She then introduced the Board Members present.

Treasurer's Report: Averel Wilson, Treasurer & Secretary

Averel reported that the SRA is in a financially healthy position with a \$100,000 balance overall, up from \$85,000 last year. Memberships paid are 237, compared to 232 last year at this time; additional gifts are down a little this year \$4,385 compared to \$5,910. The Board is looking for strategic ways to support the SRA with the available funds.

Lili noted the year-round community has been robustly active, and members had great projects during the off season.

II. Mount Desert 365: Kathy Miller, Executive Director and Alex Birdsall

Kathy stated the mission of Mount Desert 365 is to rejuvenate the Town of Mount Desert with economic revitalization and affordable housing. A recently purchased lot on Old Fire House Lane is being developed to create a new building with the Seacoast Mission administration offices as its occupant of the first floor. Mount Desert 365 will locate its offices to the 2nd floor, along with additional office space. The 3rd floor will be apartments. She went on to describe three additional properties owned by MD 365 on Main St., Northeast Harbor

(147, 149, and 151). The buildings at 147 and 149 need to be replaced due to age and safety issues; they plan to rebuild with like kind. The plan is to have retail businesses on the ground floors and 10 to 11 apartments, total, amongst the three buildings. Also, they have recently contracted with Greg Scott of RLPS Architects for a project on Summit Rd to be developed as residential housing.

She described the economic development social media campaign to highlight local businesses; the Business Boot Camp held this past March in which 10 local businesses participated; and their efforts working with the Mount Desert Chamber of Commerce to offer business skill development.

A 6-minute video was presented of the highly successful and well attended Business Boot Camp.

The question was asked if MD 365 has reached out to the Pine Tree Market. Kathy stated no one from the Pine Tree Market applied for the Boot Camp; nor were they specifically approached. It is hoped they will participate next year. However, she has spoken with Pine Tree Market management and made them aware of some difficulties MD 365 has heard from the community.

III. Island Housing Trust: Deedie Bouscaren, Vice Chair

Ms. Bouscaren presented a one-woman skit from which we learned: Affordable housing is a must. 60% of the people who work on the Island cannot afford to live on the Island. IHT has been helping to provide housing since 1989 and now has 38 affordable homeownerships. This past winter IHT had a house donated, moved it to Beech Hill Rd, and plans to have a family moved in by end of summer. Also, by the end of summer 13 Sylvan Rd., Northeast Harbor should be ready for occupancy. Acquisition of conservation acreage adjacent to Jones Marsh on Route 3, Bar Harbor will provide room for 9 plus houses. IHT will continue as long as it has the support. All are invited to an Open House at 13 Sylvan Rd after this meeting.

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

Rebecca reported ANP business is good, even too good. The Transportation Plan document is available for public review; however, the public comment period has ended. The objective of the Plan is to improve visitor experience and avoid congestion. The National Park Service preferred alternative is the reservation system for Cadillac Mountain, Jordan Pond, and Ocean Drive; the expansion of Island Explorer service; and an increase in commercial tour services.

Another issue Rebecca addressed is the Red Pine tree decline on the Island that has been going on since 2010. The invasive pest likely came in on landscaping plants. ANP Vegetation Management Team is working with Mount Desert Elementary School 7 and 8 graders to do monitoring. Fortunately, our forests are super healthy and Red Pine is a small component. Green seedlings of red spruce are coming in.

Question: *Who's issue are the dead trees on Sargeant Drive?* NPS's and it has Assessment Teams out checking on these; they will be removed, but not during the summer months. Partly to protect bats and partly due to staff. They are not a fire hazard; the forest is generally green and there is a lot of moisture in soil. NPS also has experienced fire crews working with towns. NPS has an outreach program to not allow fire wood brought in from out of State.

Rebecca also reported on this past winter's rapid weather changes and Sieur de Mont ice skating. It has been many years since that kind of flooding and freezing has happened.

Lili spoke from her role as a member of Friends of Acadia, and MDI Search & Rescue. There were several incidences during Memorial Day week-end, and due to the heavy, congested traffic it took her 70 minutes to get to a scene to provide help. Safety is a huge issue. She reminded us that Park Staff is doing the best they can do with 30% less budget. And although we love our beautiful gardens, we need to think about the impact to nature and the big picture. If we all do our jobs as good stewards we, the Island, and the Park will be around another 200 years.

V. Town of Mount Desert: Durlin Lunt, Town Manager

Durlin commented that there is work that gets done in town that doesn't get recognition. There are many volunteers that serve on somewhat obscure committees. The Sustainability Committee has accomplished changes such as the street light conversion to LED lights, which will be done in September, that are better for the environment and provide cost savings. The Committee is responsible for solar power at the highway garage through working with ReVision. They hosted a presentation from Pemetic School students and are working with them to come up with warrant articles to reduce disposable plastics in our waste stream. The Committee is going to organize a forum on invasive plants. And they are responsible for the EV charging station at the Yachtsmen Building. The Harbor Committee makes recommendations to the Board of Selectmen to ensure safe harbors within the entire town. There is quite a mix of usage, particularly in Northeast Harbor: commercial fishermen, transient boaters, seasonal and year-round boaters. Another little-known group is the Youth in Politics which is comprised of school age children wanting to be able to help make policy for the betterment of the town. Durlin encouraged anyone with government experience to contact him and he'll set you up with YiP. Durlin also mentioned the Broadband Committee tasked with the challenge of working with a national company such as Spectrum to provide internet service to the western part of town. The build out is complete; the next step is recruiting customers.

Main Street, Northeast Harbor Project: Tony Smith, Director of Public Works

Tony provided a Power Point presentation of the architectural designs of the improvements to Main Street from the triangle in front of Neighborhood House to the Summit Rd. intersection near F T Brown. The Neighborhood House triangle is moved for safety and park space. The improved Summit Rd. intersection is to slow traffic coming into town and create a larger parking lot adjacent to the Knowles Co. The design does call for burying Main St. wires. The Water District intends to replace its assets on Main St. Both they and the Town have signed agreements with the low bidder for the project.

Questions to Tony: *How much time will the project take?* Work will commence October 15, 2018 and continue until May 24, 2019 (no work during the summer); if needed work will resume October 14, 2019 and be done by December 6, 2019. *Will traffic be able to go through Main St. during the project?* Yes, traffic will be one way and there will be access to buildings. Also, parking will be available. *Will Main St. businesses need to close?* Businesses will not need to close. Tony commented that some business owners were on the committee for this project, which has been set up to avoid disruption during the summer season. *Considering the thin ice this town is on with respect to commercial businesses, did the committee study the impact this project will have on businesses?* The improvement to sidewalks and infrastructure of water and sewer will be a positive impact. Lili interjected with two determinates: the long-term beautification and infrastructure improvement. John Boynton, owner of 123 Main St. described the challenges encountered during the rebuild to connect to the water main due to the fragility of the system. The improved infrastructure will serve businesses in a positive way. *Would moving wires rather than burying wires be more beneficial?* It's being considered and a report from Emera should be received next week. Tony noted they are also looking at better poles, reducing the number of wires, and having wires to buildings underground. *Will there be a second vote on this project (referencing the Citizens Petition, requesting reconsideration of the project, presented to the*

Board of Selectmen earlier this month)? The Board of Selectmen is gathering information and plans to discuss the petition and its content at its August 6 meeting. Public Comment: The SRA needs to address these misunderstandings, attend the Board of Selectmen meeting, and talk with friends in town to allay feelings of mistrust. Tony agreed there is misinformation being spread and assured that Main St. will not be shut down. He also encouraged people to email, call, or visit him at his office to discuss the project.

Lili stated there are lot of great people working very hard for the betterment of the Town. She thanked all for attending and promptly ended the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Averel Wilson, Secretary