

Peaks Island Council Meeting

June 4, 2015

6:30 PM, MacVane Community Center

In Attendance: Mary Anne Mitchell, Timmi Sellers, Timothy Wyant, Kathleen Hayward, Mike Murray. **Excused:** Lisa Penalver, Howard Pedlikin, Amory Baker.

I. Call to Order: Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

II. Roll Call: Mary Anne Mitchell, Timmi Sellers, Timothy Wyant, Kathleen Hayward.
Public in Attendance at Start of Meeting: 21

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Sellers moved to approve the minutes from the May 6 meeting, Hayward seconded, motion passed unanimously.

IV. Committee Reports

Maine Island Coalition

- The Island Institute is now working with Newell Augur to follow and help understand upcoming legislation that may impact Maine Islands.
- There are two bills in process that would address the Efficiency Maine's funding cut. Please reach out to legislators to have them support efficiency programs in Maine.
- Stephanie MacLagan has joined the Economic Development Team and is collecting information for a multi-island broadband study which will include information on current capacity, recommendations for improving infrastructure, and potential costs. Peaks Island is part of this study and is considered underserved by broadband services in remote areas on the Island.
- There were 16 Island Scholar Internship placements this year with approximately six on Peaks.
- Bills to keep an eye on:
 - o LD63 which will increase Maine Care reimbursements for Assisted Living facilities on islands,
 - o LD472/LD831: increase funding to the Meals on Wheels Service to decrease the waiting list,
 - o LD714: Telemedicine for the islands.
 - o Ocean Acidification Bill: Rep. Mic Devin is working to establish an ocean acidification council for Maine to use available federal funds for research/mitigation.
 - o Marine Debris Bill: Rep. Devin is putting together a group that will work closely with fishermen to identify marine debris problems.

- o Sea Level Rise Bill: Rep. Devin is working with islanders and legislators to get funds to map the coast.
- o LD408: Rep Lydia Blume will help municipalities prepare for sea level rise as part of local comprehensive planning for York County.
- LifeFlight Maine: Last year, this non-profit charity organization served 25 people that needed to be medevacked from Islands. They have two helicopters that serve as a small hospital and are looking to add a fixed wing aircraft to do long range transport flights and a third helicopter to use in the southern/central Maine areas.
- Island Home Insurance: It is difficult to get insurance on many island properties and seasonal and second homeowners pay much higher rates for insurance. Baldacci initiated a bill to help cover the cost of insurance for coastal high-risk properties but it didn't get far. Cape Cod implemented a plan that is now working as a model for other communities.

Island Advisory Committee

No one from PIC has attended these meetings. Sellers volunteered to attend the next meeting which are held every other month on the 3rd Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. at the CBL meeting room.

Safety Committee

Cadet Raven has arrived! She has been working hard to keep traffic problems to a minimum near the Peaks ferry terminal. She is funded by PIC until June 30th. Assistance has been requested from businesses, organizations, and individual after this date who have agreed to help fund the Cadet's work from July 1, 2015 to mid-September. Checks can be made out to "City of Portland, Maine," write Cadet in the memo line and sent to:

City of Portland
Mike Murray, Room 208
389 Congress St.
Portland, ME 04101

Mike will send a receipt for your support. PIC would like to thank all of those businesses, organizations and individuals who have made a financial commitment to help fund the Cadet.

Zoning Committee

Home Start submitted a proposal to the Planning board which was approved. It would relax the lot size requirement, however, the new buildings constructed need to be accessory to the main building and can only be rented to full-year residents that meet certain City of Portland affordable housing criteria since this assistance cannot be used to create more seasonal vacation rentals. This is one of four affordable housing initiatives being looked at by the City so the process is being slowed down while all four initiatives are being reviewed. Sellers asked that, if these properties are sold, will it remain as an affordable housing. Wyant said yes, as far as he understands.

Sellers met with Tim "Murph" Murphy who is interested in starting a committee for open roads and public access. Mr. Murphy asked for it to be formalized

Seller moved to establish a special committee called Open Roads and Access, operating under the existing Zoning Committee, Mitchell seconded, motion passed unanimously. Sellers said there is a plan for a public meeting regarding this issue in the fall.

In response to a question from the audience regarding the last time the unaccepted and paper streets have been mapped, Mike Murray responded that these roads have been mapped 18 years ago so this process will help to refine their current uses and conditions.

Environmental Committee

The Committee met with Troy Moon and Marty Mulkern, head of Public Works on Peaks, and obtained approval for two doggy bag stations. They will be placed in visible areas down front so that they can be carried with people who are walking on the Island with dogs.

A new Bigbelly garbage can will be placed in front of the Post Office. Requests were made to place more trash cans around areas down front which the Public Works department will consider with limitation only due to what their current personnel can reasonably maintain.

Skate Board Park Committee

Chris Hoppin met with City Parks and recreation to really look at plans for the skateboard park which will be placed at Trott Littlejohn near the Community Garden. The Committee will be working with the City to obtain a 99 year lease for the skate board park as was done for the Community Gardens. Rough estimate to build: \$80,000 to \$100,000. Chris is planning to start fundraising for the park and is applying to local funding opportunities. He is looking for a fiscal501(c)3 sponsor who can provide tax incentives and in-kind donations efforts to individuals and businesses who would like to donate. The start of the public fundraising effort will coincide with Peaks Fest. Jackman has provided conceptual plans for the skateboard park. Copies of the design were passed around to attendees at the meeting. The skateboard park will be approximately 1/2 the size of the Community Garden. Chris thanked PIC for their support which helped to gain support from the City and make the park possible and a young public member provided a skateboarding demonstration and voiced support of a skate board park on behalf of Peaks Island kids.

Sellers asked Mike Murray what will be happening to the gravel piles that are currently at Trott-Littlejohn. Mike assured that those piles are temporary and will be removed from the area before the skateboard park is completed. He also explained that, once the skateboard park is built, it will change the dynamics of how the City will use that area keeping the increased public use of that area in mind.

Several public members stated how they appreciated the use of the old skateboard park off of Brackett by families and are glad that one will be built to continue this family activity on the Island.

Hayward expressed concern that the existing gravel piles and construction material at Trott-Littlejohn provide an "attractive nuisance" to children who do not comprehend the danger posed by the material. "Attractive Nuisance" is a legal term referring to dangerous existing situations where a child might be harmed due to ignorance of the danger. In law, there is no limit specified for the age of the child. She is concerned that the loose granulate piles will attract kids to climb them when they are taking a break from skateboarding which may cause serious injury. She would like to be certain that these materials be removed before the skate board park is built. Mike Murray said that that was the plan. Chris said that some of those materials will be used in the development of the skate board park. Sellers is in support of the park because it will increase community use and enjoyment of Trott-Littlejohn Park.

V. Unfinished Business

Police Officer Rob Lauderbach commented that he has only heard good things about Raven from community members and has found her to be very professional and very sharp.

A public member stated how impressed she was with how the ferry line is moving with the new signs on Island Avenue designating the ferry line and Raven's role in insuring that the line moves smoothly.

Hayward said that there is still an issue with the "circle" because people are still waiting and parking there. Mike Murray responded that when the crews come out to strike (paint) out the crosswalks, they will also designate the waiting zone versus the non-waiting zone in the circle. Officer Lauderbach mentioned that they will be able to manage the situation better once this designation has been done.

Public discussion regarding the Island Tours stopping for customers in the circle area. Negotiations need to occur with Island Tours to find another suitable area for their waiting site. Officer Lauderbach will check in with Island Tours also to explore site possibilities.

Public discussion regarding no idling of cars in ferry landing area but another sign may not be the solution. Right now, you can only talk to people who are idling and ask if they would stop since it is not an illegal practice for the public in Portland at this time. Sellers suggested a sign on the bulletin board.

VI. Vote on unused funds from fiscal year 2015

There is approximately \$3,400 left available in the budget. \$300 to 400 should be held for situations/projects that may arise.

Sellers moved to allocate \$3,000 to support the skateboard park, Hayward seconded, with public discussion:

Public member assumed that the additional money would be put towards the cadet. Mitchell said Penalver's report indicates that there is enough funding promised by local businesses, organizations and individuals in order for the Cadet to be funded after July 1 for three days/week throughout the summer.

Motion passed unanimously.

VII. Discussion of 2016 budget money to elementary students turning ten years of age.

Charles Burr, Board Member of Casco Bay Lines, reported that the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has not heard this issue yet. Casco Bay lines cannot do anything until PUC hears this issue. The CBL Board passed the initiative but PUC is the final authority. Charles believes that should be heard fairly soon by PUC and it may in the form of a public hearing where people can voice their opinions. Mike Murray assured that this budget item can still be in the budget although it has not been fully approved yet.

VIII. Duties and Responsibilities of the Peaks Island Council

Mitchell discussed that a lot of people come to PIC members asking them to address issues that are not necessarily the responsibility of PIC but of other organizations on the Island. Mitchell suggested that PIC needs to do research, slow down, and think before reacting to make sure that PIC is not overlapping on other organizations' duties. Mike Murray agrees that most decisions need to be made along with other organizations in many cases.

The City of Portland is offering a new tool for the public to easily report an issue of problem of concern called **SeeClickFix**. It is a website where nonemergency issues can be reported with pictures and the city will then issue a work order to address the situation. The website for this tool is: http://en.seeclickfix.com/portland_2

Examples of the role of the PIC via Mike Murray:

PIC can report issues to the City but emergencies should be reported directly to the police or fire department and questions about "what should I do about something" can be directed to Mike. The order that created PIC spells out the role as advisory, organizing public hearings, making recommendations to the City for safety, health services, parking issues, etc., creation of subcommittees if necessary, fundraising for local events and volunteer efforts and also providing recommendations to the City for allocation of funds and for ordinance amendments. The City Council is also directed to provide time to address PIC concerns when brought to their attention.

IX. New Business

Capitol Improvement Budget for next year: Mitchell wanted to bring this up because two people have come to her requesting an endorsement from PIC to support specific projects through Portland Capitol Improvement budget. Sam Saltonstall's Peaks Island School Energy Project will be looking for financial assistance from the budget to put in a new heating system for the school and Monica Stevenson requested assistance for the library renovation.

The new public reporting effort, **SeeClickFix**, was discussed. It provides public members a way by which they can report local issues of concern as well as associated pictures to the City so that it can address the issue. The website for this effort is: http://en.seeclickfix.com/portland_2

The public non-emergency call line for the police was brought up by Officer Lauderbach. It is **874-8575**. This number goes directly to the police dispatcher and a record is made of the call. This number provides an opportunity to talk to a police officer for information and questions. For emergency medical and law enforcement situations, 911 should still be used.

CERT is working to encourage people to put numbers on their houses that can be seen from the street to make it easier for emergency personnel to find them. Mitchell suggested that PIC keep bringing this up as important business frequently and possibly help CERT hire an Island scholar next summer to work on that issue selling a selection of house numbers colors and designs door-to-door to help encourage this effort.

X. Adjournment:

Mitchell motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m., Sellers seconded, unanimous vote to approve.

INDIVIDUAL COUNCILOR ACTION ITEMS

- Sellers will attend the next Island Advisory meeting.
- Sellers will initiate the new Open Roads and Access Committee with Tim "Murph" Murphy.