



## Peaks Island Council MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 6:15 p.m.

Hybrid ZOOM/in-person meeting in the Community Center

**NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting**  
**March 26, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER: 6:18 p.m.**

### ROLL CALL

Present: Scott Mohler, Shelagh Reiser, Karsten Rees, Laura Glendening, Fred Somers (via Zoom), Norm Proulx

Absent: Jess Burton

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 9 in person, 1 on zoom

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

***Reiser motioned to accept the minutes of the January 22<sup>nd</sup> PIC meeting. Glendening seconded. Motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously.***

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Patnaude reported that the only expenditures this month was printing the brochures about shoreline vegetation guide (\$200.00). Patnaude said that he also moved the \$5,000 approved by the PIC last month from Welch Street webcam to Peaks Island Taxi. The current balance is \$7,452.44.

Mohler asked how the surplus could be spent down before the end of the fiscal year. Patnaude said that the city will understand the surplus since the school department purchased annual Casco Bay Lines passes for the students. He did not think that the city would reduce PIC's budget going forward because of this surplus.

***Somers made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Proulx seconded. Report accepted unanimously.***

### COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

#### • Executive Committee –

Sandy beach repairs

- A Contractor has been hired and materials have been ordered and as soon as the weather is good enough work will begin on the Sandy Beach ramp. Work is estimated to start in about a month. If the work on the Sandy Beach ramp is good, Patnaude will ask the same contractor to bid on the Ferry Beach ramp.

Deer herd estimate

- There were 10 deer removed from Peaks Island between October and mid-January. The manageable level for Peaks Island is 18-20 deer. There were 32 deer removed from the Diamond Islands.

- **Environmental and Sustainability and Parks and Rec Committee**

Timmi Sellers said that PEAT is advocating for the CBL Sustainability Committee to be re-started. It was discontinued when the new CBL board launched.

- **Ferry Service**

Somers said he reached out to Jennifer Lavanture about CBL plans on the vehicle reservation proposal and asking how CBL plans to engage the community. Somers has not heard back yet.

- **Housing and Zoning Committee – ReCode Zoning survey**

Glendening said that the shoreline guide brochure is ready to print. The group would like PIC to fund plants for revegetating the understory between Brackett Cemetery and Sandy Beach.

Mark Gorsky said that there will be a community forum about housing on Peaks Island with speakers to discuss development and finance issues: Liz Trice who works with Backyard ADUs; Larissa Crocket who is executive director of Neighborhood Housing Trust in Kennebunkport; and Robyn Wardell who works at Genesis Community Loan Fund. No one from City Planning Department will be present. Presentations will be followed by Q&A. The event will be on March 1<sup>st</sup> at 10am.

Glendening said that the committee will also be contacting the City Planning Department to pursue Re-code issues that were not adopted yet by the city.

- **Island Assessment –**

No update.

- **Paper Roads**

No update.

- **Parking**

No update.

- **Voter Education**

No update.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- PIC advertising in Peaks Island News

Karsten Rees said that the STAR notices should also be sent to the Peaks Island News for publication.

Glendening said that the STAR notices are just the upcoming meetings and events. Glendening noted that the Mail Chimp newsletter has bullet points about what was discussed at the meetings. Rees said just a link to the drive so that people could read the minutes would suffice.

- Budget Requests

Budget requests from community

PEAT - \$2,000

PICW - \$10,000

Taxi - \$26,556

Island Compost - \$2,400

Home Start - \$2,400

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Total - \$43,356

PIC line items

Bike tix - \$250

Needs-Based Tix - \$2,300

Admin - \$2,250

Student tickets - \$450

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Total - \$5,250

Reiser asked if the request would be for \$45,000? Consensus was that PIC would request \$45K.

Somers said that trimming \$1,500 from budget request from the Peaks Island Taxi would probably not affect them much. So, their request could be reduced to \$25,000.

Somers said that Children's Workshop increased their request to \$10K because they've increased their capacity from 12 to 20 so they need to add more staff, and the state is proposing a cut to childcare worker stipend. Somers felt the jump from last year's funding \$3,200 to \$10K may raise eyebrows at the City. But raising the funding amount from \$3,200 to \$7,500 would be acceptable for everyone.

Somers said the \$2,400 request from Home Start is to fund Island Institute Fellow housing.

Somers said the Compost project didn't increase their funding request but vehicle ferry tickets may be going up this year so PIC may want to give them \$2,650 instead of their request for \$2,400.

Somers suggested leaving \$450 in student tickets to cover the annual pass for the Island Institute Fellow.

Patnaude noted that CBL ticket rates have gone up this year so \$2,300 this year doesn't buy the same number of tickets as \$2,300 last year. Somers and Patnaude agree that more should be allocated to needs-based tickets.

Rees suggested asking for needs-based tickets request that would provide the same level of service as last year. Given that the CBL ticket prices have gone up 80%, then the request this year should be \$3,600.

Councilors discussed asking for more than \$45K for the overall budget. Consensus that PIC should only request \$45K.

Somers suggested any increase in needs-based tickets funding should come from reductions in other line items.

Patnaude said bike tickets used \$210 last year. Glendening noted that bike tickets are now included in monthly and yearly passes.

Reiser asked councilors to consider budget application criteria when selecting what budget requests to fund.

**Glendening made a motion to submit these PIC expenses to the city council for the FY26 budget:**

**Bike tickets - \$250**

**Needs-based tickets - \$3,000**

**Admin - \$2,250**

***Student tickets - \$450***

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***Total - \$5,950***

***Budget requests from community***

***PEAT - \$2,000***

***PICW - \$7,250***

***Taxi - \$25,000***

***Island Compost - \$2,400***

***Home Start - \$2,400***

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***Total - \$39,050***

***Proulx seconded it.***

Public comment

AM said that PEAT's work at Trott Littlejohn Park is part of city's services, since the group is picking up the work of Parks and Recreation.

AM said that PEAT has worked collaboratively to create an environment that is important for children and they really would like to be funded.

AM said that PIC started 18 years ago with a \$50K budget. PIC should tell the city what we need, not ask for what we can have. Somers said that PIC also submits an annual capital improvement request which is several million dollars' worth of work.

***Motion passed five in favor and one opposed.***

Rees proposed a motion to amend the budget could be forwarded to the city to fully fund the PICW. Somers suggested that instead of amending the budget, PIC could wait to see if cuts to state budget cuts the childcare stipend program in half as has been proposed by Governor Mills. If that cut is approved by the state, Somers suggested that Patnaude could inquire with city about an amendment to the PIC budget on PIC's behalf.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

AM asked PIC to send a letter to CBL to reinstate the Sustainability Committee and CC: Anne Mitchell, Mark Clements, Chuck Radis and Peter McLaughlin. Also, the work to put a bus shelter closer to the CBL waiting room needs to continue.

AM said the CBL Sustainability Committee needs to be reinstated to advocate for a bus shelter at CBL. CBL board members said that no one on the CBL board wants to lead the Sustainability Committee because of all the work they are doing on the financial issues.

AM said that public comment should be at the beginning of the meeting.

AM said that the folder on the drive for this meeting is empty. Mohler said that is being worked on.

AM said they attended CBL operations committee meeting where they discussed the vehicle reservation system. Public attendance at the meeting was very low and there were 60 emails sent. Can PIC encourage people to attend CBL meetings? Somers said that PIC sent out a notice before the operations committee meeting and he would continue sharing developments as they arise.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES**

**Next PIC Meeting:** Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 6:15 pm in the community room and on Zoom.

***Rees made motion to adjourn. Proulx seconded. Motion passed unanimously.***

**Meeting Adjournment:** 8:14 p.m.