



P.O.Box 14, Peaks Island, ME 04108

Peaks Island Council MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

6:15 p.m., Peaks Island Community Room

NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting – August 28, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: 6:16 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Randy Schaeffer, Lisa Peñalver, Andrea Kelly-Rosenberg, Michelle Winchester, Devon Kraft
Absent: Stuart Jackson, Steve Anderson

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 24

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Peñalver made the motion to approve the June 26th meeting minutes. Kelly-Rosenberg seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Schaeffer reported that fiscal 2019 budget report shows that the Peaks Island Council spent a total of \$39,846.55. Peñalver asked about the \$154.45 that was left unspent. Schaeffer said it had been allocated to "Needs Based Tickets" and may have been spent – Bill Patnaude to investigate. Schaeffer commented that with the recent change in Peaks Island liason (from Mike Murry at Bill Patnaude (who is also Operations Manager of Public Works)), some budget issues will need to be ironed out in the coming month, i.e. the \$154.45 remainder from the 2019 budget. ***Kelly-Rosenberg made the motion to accept the budget report. Kraft seconded. Budget report unanimously accepted by all councilors.***

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

Ferry Service Committee

Chuck Radis, committee chair, reported that he met with police and other interested people about a preferential boarding pilot program. He contacted Casco Bay Lines about initiating the pilot program during the summer of 2019. Hank Berg of Casco Bay Lines responded to Radis via email to say that Casco Bay Line's policy is "first come, first serve." Berg said that "the Board had a workshop with legal counsel on Feb. 23, 2017 to consider 'Islander priority boarding' and as a result of the discussions it was decided to not pursue it." Berg suggested that the Peaks Island Council pursue islander priority boarding by "contacting your representatives to get it on the Operations Committee agenda to start the process over again."

Radis stated that in the meantime, the ferry service committee will do a survey to determine if there is community support for islander preferential boarding, and investigate other examples of preferential boarding as guidelines for how it can be done.

Officer Danny Rose reported that he has set up barricades to create a queueing line on the weekend. The goal is to limit the number of people in the area immediately in front of the holding pen area that leads to the onramp of the ferry. Rose stated that the barricades are coming to and from the Casco Bay Lines ferry terminal each weekend but that there are not

enough barriers. Rose stated that City Manager Jon Jennings has agreed to give him “anything he needs” to control the crowds. Rose reported that when the barriers have been in place, the crowds were well-controlled.

Radis asked Rose about how to make the use of the barricades standard police policy. Rose replied that it is still a pilot program and they are figuring out how to improve the procedures. Rose stated that the police cannot be responsible for the barricades all the time but the officers will set them up when they anticipate large crowds.

Safety Committee

Rose reported that six abandoned cars have been towed off the island, four more to go in the coming weeks. He asked Schaeffer to issue a message on NextDoor to see if there are more abandoned cars to be removed.

Peñalver stated that the Safety Committee would like to have a follow up meeting with Chief Malloch to discuss the role of the cadet. Rose said that the cadet is working down front to maintain traffic control. Schaeffer commented that use of the young, inexperienced cadet to deal with the congestion issues down front is ineffective, and that other solutions should be explored, especially increased police support during the busy summer months. Schaeffer suggested that the Safety Committee draft a letter to the Chief to ask for specific actions to improve public safety at the ferry landing.

Parking Committee

Winchester provided a summary of activity of the Parking Committee and invited public to attend the Parking Committee meetings. Meetings are the fourth Monday of every month in the Community Room.

- 1) The Parking Committee issued a communication regarding the Marginal Way shuttle, which has generated a lot of questions. Ridership is increasing a little, but the schedule doesn't meet everyone's needs.

Winchester stated that you don't need a sticker to park in the Maine DOT commuter lot, and that anyone can take the shuttle. Additionally, anyone can park their car in the commuter lot for seven days. Island residents can park both on the street (with a sticker) and in the commuter lot. Winchester will issue a communication with this information.

- 2) Ocean Gateway garage – Winchester asked Belinda Ray and Spencer Thibodeau to meet with her and the management of the garage to understand the garage's recent rate changes.
- 3) Island Resident parking zone tally – the information will be given to the city to inform the amount of resident parking, especially on the Thames Street extension. Winchester has tally sheets that people can request if they would like to help with the tally.
- 4) Survey – the Parking Committee is in the process of drafting a survey about parking so islanders can provide input about mainland parking issues.

Golf Cart Committee Report

Schaeffer updated on Anderson's behalf. If the new golf cart ordinance is going to be voted on at the August 5th meeting of City Council, there will be an opportunity for public comment. However, it may be delayed to a future meeting. The City Council agenda will be published on the city website and will indicate when the City will vote on the golf cart ordinance.

The Peaks Island Council would like a slight change to the language regarding who can limit the number of golf carts and golf cart companies. The Council will reach out to City Councilors to see if wording of the ordinance can be changed before the vote.

OLD BUSINESS

- Infrastructure – follow-up on infrastructure improvements as conveyed by City Manager to CBITD. Schaeffer said conversations with the city are continuing for comprehensive changes to infrastructure at the ferry landing. Information will be shared as it becomes available.
- Recreation program and community room – Kelly-Rosenberg reported that Marie Davis will attend the Peaks Island Council meeting on September 24, 2019. Davis is eager to hear community concerns about the recreation program and issues around use of the community room.

NEW BUSINESS

Portland ReCode – next steps

Phyllis MacIsaac reported on the presentation by Christine Grimando about the 2030 Portland plan. MacIsaac stated that the result of the meeting was that Grimando learned about island issues and now has a much better understanding of the island community. Grimando will stay in touch with MacIsaac as the re-coding of Peaks Island begins.

Schaeffer said that it is important for the Peaks Island community to be vigilant about the types of coding changes that the City may put into the new code. Schaeffer suggested that a committee will be formed to keep track of what changes are being proposed.

Ferry Service Committee

As a member of the Ferry Service Committee, Kelly-Rosenberg made a motion to conduct a study of preferential boarding strategies and to conduct a survey of the Peaks Island community regarding such strategies.

It is moved that the Peaks Island Council Ferry Service Committee shall collect information regarding ferry preferential boarding strategies, share that information with the Peaks Island community, and conduct a community survey of public opinion regarding such strategies.

Peñalver seconded the motion.

Public Comment on the motion:

AM – It is unacceptable that Casco Bay Lines will not take up the issue of preferential boarding. The survey means it will be a year or more before Casco Bay Lines will be involved. Casco Bay Lines should be involved in the research we are doing.

Schaeffer – Hank Berg has stated that Casco Bay Lines' policy is "first come, first serve." Hank said that the proper way to handle this is to contact our Casco Bay Lines representatives. So our job is to do a little homework to understand what works and what doesn't work.

Radis – We expect to work collaboratively with Casco Bay Lines on this issue.

AM – Well the motion's wording does not say that Casco Bay Lines will be involved.

Councilor discussion:

Winchester made a motion to amend the motion, to add ***"report back on findings and make recommendations to proceed."*** Peñalver seconded the amendment.

Motion and amendment passed unanimously.

Safety committee purchase

Peñalver made a motion to order more fridge magnets with the dispatch phone number.

It is moved that the Peaks Island Council order 1000 fridge magnets with the non-emergency dispatch phone number so that they could be distributed to the community, with the \$220.00 cost falling under the administration budget.

Shaeffer seconded the motion. ***Motion and amendment passed unanimously.***

PUBLIC COMMENT

AM: When Marie Davis is here, will we be able to ask questions?

Kelly-Rosenberg: My hope is that people will come with suggestions and requests for Marie. We can field those questions before Davis comes, like we did when we had the police chief here.

AM: I want to commend the people at the transfer station for how clean they are keeping it, especially with the amount of waste they are handling with so many people on the island in the summer.

AM: I am glad we are ordering the dispatch magnets because people need to call the non-emergency number when they see things that should be addressed. The police chief said that the only way we can get additional police presence is to make more calls for service.

AM: I met with the tax assessor because the city is re-assessing the properties on the island. In the discussion it came up that the "base lot" on Peaks Island for taxation purposes is 10,000 square feet, no matter how small your lot is. In other neighborhoods of the city, the "base lot" is 5,000 square feet. I think that during this tax re-assessment, we should question the City about how many lots fall below the 10,000 square foot threshold. I would like the Peaks Island Council to engage the City in a conversation about this.

AM: When you park your car in the commuter lot for seven days, can you leave for a couple days and then park again for seven days?

Winchester: I'm not sure how they can tell how many days you have parked in the commuter lot. And I don't really know about how long you have to leave before your next seven day period can start.

AM: My visiting friend tried to park in the commuter lot and he was told that he could not park there.

Winchester: I'm not sure who told him that, but the Maine DOT runs the lot and they allow people to park for seven days until October 31st. After October 31st, that lot will be used for snow ban parking and the maximum amount of time you can park there is 48 hours.

AM: I am a seasonal resident and I have to pay \$50 to get an island resident sticker.

Winchester: We are questioning the fairness of the "snowbird sticker" and we are bringing it up with the City.

UPDATES

Winchester stated that during the recent Casco Bay Island Association trip to Chebeague Island, visitors learned that Great Diamond only has electric golf carts and that Chebeague residents have a shuttle service to an island parking lot that costs \$600 a year.

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, August 28, 2019, 6:15 pm at the Community Room

Meeting Adjournment: 7:52 p.m.