



**Peaks Island Council
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

6:15 p.m., ZOOM meeting

**NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting–February 24,
2021**

February PIC meeting will be a ZOOM meeting

CALL TO ORDER: 6:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Randy Schaeffer, Peter Eckel, Fred Somers, Andrea Kelly-Rosenberg, SE Rafferty, Peter McLaughlin

Absent: Devon Kraft

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 17

Current council members welcomed new council member Peter McLaughlin.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Eckel made the motion to approve the December 16, 2020 meeting minutes. Somers seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Schaeffer shared the expenditure report as of January 21, 2021 via Zoom. Schaeffer reported that the total remaining budget for FY21 is \$10,109.30.

Eckel made a motion to accept the expenditure report. Rafferty seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

• Executive Committee – update

- Zoom participation guidelines – Schaeffer reviewed Zoom participation guidelines for audience members
- Recording of meetings - Schaeffer pointed out to attendees that PIC meetings will now be recorded and posted on YouTube so that community members who are not able to attend live meetings can view them at a later date.
- Police chief's committee – Schaeffer received an invitation from Portland Police Chief Clark to participate on an advisory board to meet 2-4 times per year. Schaeffer will participate and update the council as things develop.

- PIC Committees and Areas of Focus – Schaeffer presented a spread sheet that listed 11 focus areas that PIC has undertaken in the past few years. Schaeffer said more committees may be developed as a result of the PIC Priorities Committee. McLaughlin said he would like to establish and chair an Environmental Committee (there is not currently an environmental committee).

Parking Committee – update

Eckel reported that there has been no response to the two requests that the PIC Parking Committee made to the City. The first request was to make an islander resident parking lot in a portion of the \$15/day lot. The second request was to increase street parking designated for island residents on Thames Street extension and a new street that is being created.

Eckel recommended that PIC members call Belinda Ray and Spencer Thibodeau as the next step.

Golf Cart Committee – update

Somers provided the update. Steve Clayman (Golf Cart Committee chair) convened the committee to discuss options for moving the process along for regulation of golf carts and golf cart companies on Peaks Island. Somers said that PIC sent a letter to both John Jennings and Belinda Ray but neither person has responded. The goal is to get regulatory requirements in place before the beginning of the new season.

Ferry Service Committee – update

Somers said the transfer bridge work will begin the week of February 8th. The bridge is owned by the Maine State Department of Transportation. The Machigonne is going into drydock while the transfer bridge is being repaired. CBL has published a schedule for car ferry service from Plantes via email. PIC will post where the schedule can be found to inform the community.

The priority boarding plan has been defined and approved by CBL Operations Committee. CBL is going to reserve a maximum of 40% of passenger seats for island residents. Proof of residency will be required. Applications for 1,500 resident passes will be done in person. The vote to adopt the priority boarding plan now moves to the full CBL board.

Audience member asked how summer residents who are not local can apply for a resident pass?

Audience member asked if residents would need to reapply each year and, with the 1,500 person cap, would getting a resident pass become like getting into the parking garage, i.e. with a huge wait list.

Somers said the first application is meant to be done in person, but renewals could be done online. Somers added that the 1,500 cap for resident passes is somewhat arbitrary. Somers said he will get more information to answer these questions posed by the audience.

Somers said the New Vessel Committee is looking for input on several design features on the new boat. The design is available for review on the CBL website. Comments need to be submitted prior to next full CBL board meeting in February.

- **Priority Setting Committee – update**

Eckel said the Priority Setting Committee has met for the first time and will be creating a survey this coming month. Eckel expects to have something to bring forward for approval at the February PIC meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- **FY 2022 Budget Request – Review of materials**

Schaeffer said that the budget workshop will be held on February 15, 2021 at 6:15pm via Zoom. The budget workshop is open to the public. Applications from organizations that are seeking funds are due by February 8, 2021. The full PIC will vote to approve the proposed budget at the PIC meeting on February 27th.

- **Wildlife Management on Peaks – presentation by Bill Patenaud**

Patenaude said that in 2000, before the deer culling program started, there were approximately 248 deer on Peaks Island. Peaks can support 10 healthy deer. After four years of debate, a city-sponsored deer culling program began in 2004. The city uses a sharp shooter who is also a biologist and conservationist and offers his services to the city free of charge. He culls deer on Peaks, Cliff, Great Diamond, and Cushing. He hunts at night using spotlights and night scopes, which is permitted for a management program. He hunts between November 1st and March 1st.

Last year, no deer were removed from Peaks Island. This year, three deer were removed from Peaks Island.

Audience member asked if the city could put some of the information that Bill Patenaud presented in writing to share with the community. Audience member also

said that it would be nice to know whenever a deer is taken. Audience member also asked how the conservationist is able to count how many deer are on the island using trail cameras.

Patenaud said he was not sure how the conservationist is able to tell if he is seeing the same or different deer in the trail camera, but he has been doing it for 37 years so he likely knows how to count deer using a trail cameras.

Audience member asked where the meat goes after the deer are culled.

Patenaud said most of it stays on the island or goes to food pantries if there is a lot of it. It does not go to waste. McLaughlin said that city employees were offered deer meat this year.

McLaughlin asked if the city has a contingency plan for when the current sharp shooter is going to retire.

Patenaud said he would need to work on that.

- **Improvements to Welch street parking lot update – Bill Patenaud**

New retaining walls are going in for the first wall. The second wall will go in after the first wall is complete. Bicycles have been removed, they are being stored on site and will eventually be considered abandoned and discarded. Next month's work will include tree removal and under drains. Paving and re-grading will occur in early spring – this will disrupt use of the parking lot more than the current retaining wall work. The goal is to complete the work by Memorial Day.

Audience member if one of the benches could be made usable for the public. Patenaud said he would talk to his foreman about that.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Peaks Island Post Office - motion on letter to Portland Postmaster re facility**

Schaeffer made a motion to send a letter to the Portland Postmaster to ask about the status of a permanent postal facility on Peaks Island. Somers seconded.

Audience member said that post office employee Gary Underwood had a meeting with his supervisor, who came to see the post office truck on Peaks Island. The supervisor said she has received 40 emails from islanders asking for a permanent postal facility. The supervisor also said she was not aware of Gary's circumstances. The audience member said they approve of the letter and encourages PIC members and community members to keep up the pressure for a new permanent facility to be found.

Audience member said the letter carriers are also affected.

Another audience member said that community pressure on CBL to provide the postal trucks with priority boarding would be helpful to the letter carriers.

No councilor discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

AM suggested that the parks and recreation committee should solicit more members for the outstanding issues for that committee – dog park, skate board park, Trott Littlejohn’s future as a park.

AM mentioned that bike ticket expenditure is still at zero, and said a previously well-used program should be better advertised before it is thrown away.

AM said that Peaks Assisted Living is looking for a mainland organization who would like to sponsor an assisted living facility here on Peaks Island. If anyone knows of a potential sponsor, please contact Chris Hoppin.

AM suggested that PIC write to city councilors encouraging them to apply for grant money that would facilitate relaying out Franklin Street.

Somers stressed that Casco Bay Line’s New Vessel Committee is looking for input on several design features on the new boat. The design is available for review on the CBL website. Comments need to be submitted prior to next full CBL board meeting in February.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, February 24, 2021, at 6:15 pm via ZOOM.

Eckel made motion to adjourn. Kelly-Rosenberg seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjournment: 7:36 p.m.