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

Peaks Island Council

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

6:15 p.m., ZOOM meeting

NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting–September 22, 2021

September PIC meeting will be a ZOOM meeting

CALL TO ORDER: 6:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 10

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Somers made the motion to accept the July 28, 2021 meeting minutes. No discussion. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Schaeffer shared the expenditure report as of August 23, 2021 via Zoom. Schaeffer reported that the total remaining budget for FY22 is $37,114.25.

Somers made a motion to accept the expenditure report. McLaughlin seconded. No discussion. Unanimous vote to accept the expenditure report. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

- **Island Priority Survey – update**

  Eckel presented a summary of the survey. The word cloud presented a visual of words mentioned in the comments – full comments available in an excel spread sheet.

  Respondents ranked each item with a 1-4 priority. 4 was highest priority, 1 was lowest priority. Totals were tallied for each item.

  Ranking of priorities:
  1) Protection of natural spaces
  2) Operations of Casco Bay Lines
  3) Climate impact and environmental best practices
  4) Traffic patterns and crowd management Down Front
  5) Law enforcement/public safety
  6) Off-island parking
  7) Enrollment numbers for the Peaks Island Elementary School
  8) Overall affordability of living on the island

9) Road infrastructure and maintenance
10) Recreation opportunities for youth
11) Diversity of the island community (racial, ethnic, economic, age)
12) Availability of year-round rental housing
13) On island transportation
14) Use of golf carts – rental
15) Use of golf carts – by residents

Survey sample included a wide range of people based on tenure of coming/living on Peaks Island, almost equally representative of people who lived here one year through over forty years.

Eckel said the next step is for PIC to conduct a workshop to go through the results, so that PIC can get a sense of what islanders consider important so it can be used to plot the course of PIC over the next few years.

Rafferty asked if the island demographic is also spread evenly across all the brackets of resident tenure – to determine if the people responding actually reflect the island population. Eckel said he will try to look at that.

Schaeffer asked when the workshop would be. Eckel said he would use email to select a "best date" for councilors. Public will also be invited to the workshop.

- **Golf Cart – update on implementation of City Ordinance**

Schaeffer presented response from City Manager Jon Jennings, regarding enforcement of golf cart regulations passed in August 2019. Jennings replied that the golf cart ordinance regulations would not be enforced until May 1, 2022. The delay is due to the pandemic.

Schaeffer presented an update on current status of number of golf carts on Peaks Island based on the numbers seen on the golf carts as they travel around the island.

At the time the ordinance was passed, both golf cart rental companies had a combined total of 40 golf carts. Currently, there are a combined total of 60 golf carts on the island (based on numbers decaled to the sides of the carts).

Somers said it was disappointing to see the increase in the number of golf carts on the island, and PIC should approach City Council about this issue.

Eckel mentioned that the golf cart companies may require more electric golf carts due to charging requirements. He said the overall size of the fleet may have increased but there may be no more golf carts on the road.

Somers said that one of the golf cart companies said charging was not an issue, the golf carts are holding their charge well.

Rafferty asked if anyone had asked Mike and Natasha directly about how many golf carts they have. Schaeffer said no.

McLaughlin said the bigger issue is that there was a community process on Peaks Island that resulted in a City ordinance that the City Manager has ignored and undermined the ordinance by delaying it.

Schaeffer suggested that PIC gather information directly from the golf cart companies about how many golf carts they have and how many

- **Fire Safety**

Schaeffer summarized the outline of events that will take place when Maine Forest Service's comes to Peaks Island to conduct a wildfire assessment for the island. Initial visit by Maine Forest Service in September 2021.

Early to mid-October – 1 day wildfire risk assessment.
Winter 2021-2022 – The Community Wildfire Protection Plan will be completed
June 2022 – The CWPP report will be presented to the community.
Juy 2022- brush chipping day

Schaeffer also presented a list of fire safety issues that PIC would like to discuss with Chief Gautreau, regarding fire apparatus, engagement of local fire/emergency personnel, water supply, cell phone coverage.

- **Island Air Traffic Noise Committee**

Basil Klosteritis, chair of the Island Air Traffic Noise Committee, said that the new flight paths that have pushed airplanes over Peaks Island were developed without due diligence or community input.

Klosteritis said that if air traffic noise is impacting you negatively, there are three steps to take:

1) Record noise complaints on the Portland Jetport site
2) Sign a petition asking for flight paths to be moved over water – available on NextDoor and the PIC website. It's called Peaks Island Flight Path Petition.
3) Attend the Air Traffic Noise Committee meetings.

Schaeffer pointed out that Jen Laventure remains the island's representative to the Jetport's Noise Advisory Committee, which is different than the Island Air Traffic Noise Committee.

Rafferty asked if signatures on the petition have to be Peaks Island residents? Klosteritis said it is open to anyone who has ever experienced a disturbance on the island.

- **PIC By-laws – update**

  McLaughlin reported that the By-Laws Committee met and developed a first draft of priority areas for the by-laws, i.e. roles and responsibilities of officers, committees, rules around the operation of committees, onboarding process for new council members, define PIC's relationship with the city.

  The By-Laws Committee will reach out to the city for input on some questions, to see how other committees function.

  Committee will create a workshop to seek public input.

- **Anti-Racism Task Force – update**

  Rafferty provided a link to a full report by the City of Portland's Racial Equity Steering Committee (RESC).

  https://portlandmaine.gov/DocumentCenter/View/31260/Racial-Equity-Steering-Committee-Final-Report-April-26-2021

  The report explores issues such as policing, affordable housing, healthcare, and public safety, and makes recommendations that the city should implement.

  The Peaks Island Anti-Racism Task Force would like to partner with the New Brackett Church to develop a forum for a community-wide conversation in order to create an action plan specific to Peaks Island.

  Rafferty said the next meeting (on Zoom) is September 21, 2021 at 11:30am.

  Schaeffer asked if there would be a motion to formalize the partnership. Rafferty said there would be at a September meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Student summer ferry passes - update**

  Schaeffer reviewed an email from Gary Cressy, Operations Agent at Casco Bay Lines. The invoice will be sent to PIC in September, so no action is required at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- **PIC update - discussion**

McLaughlin brought up issue of PIC updates and how they are sent out. He pointed out that PIC has not developed a process for sending out the PIC updates which appear to be sent out from the entire body, although the entire PIC body does not have input on the content or timing of the updates.

Eckel asked if this discussion should be part of the by-laws committee work.

McLaughlin said that instead of a committee working out the details, the entire PIC body should participate in the procedural discussion so that council practice can be formalized as soon as possible.

Rafferty said she would like to have input to PIC updates before they go out to the community, without bogging the process down.

Schaeffer reminded council members that communicating with the community via PIC updates is fairly new, just within the past few years. He said that any council member can request to send out an update by contacting Randy Schaeffer. He said that he tries to keep updates objective and based on issues that have been discussed.

Rafferty said it makes sense for the updates to have more than one set of eyes involved.

Schaeffer said it makes sense to add this to the by-laws discussion.

- **MIC Representative – motion to appoint Peaks Island representative**

Schaeffer made a motion to Appoint Peaks Island Representative to Maine Island Coalition.

It is moved that Ellen Mahoney be appointed to serve as the Peaks Island representative to the Maine Island Coalition of the Island Institute.

Somers seconded.

No public discussion. No councilor discussion. ***Motion passes unanimously.***

PUBLIC COMMENT

AM asked if Peter intends to do any more analysis on the priority setting survey. Eckel said no, but if someone has an idea for more analysis to be in touch with him and he will attempt to pursue it.

AM said that since the golf cart issue was not high, it would be better to pursue issues with CBL, a higher priority.

AM asked if meeting with police chief will take place? Schaeffer said that it is being re-scheduled.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, September 22, 2021, at 6:15 pm via ZOOM.

Eckel made motion to adjourn. McLaughlin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjournment: 7:31 p.m.