

Select Board ... continued from page 8

And, our promised four years without a rate increase is over. J.King reported that Bill Pulver, COO of MEDOT made a presentation at the MSFS Advisory Meeting on July 20th in anticipation of a coming rate increase; the operating costs have steadily increased, driven primarily by personnel, repair and fuel costs. The next tariff will be based on projected continued increases and seems to be translating into an 18% fare increase. The Select Board asked J.King to bring their suggestions to MSFS including allocating more of the increase to the Peak season, increase cost of reservations, have a “true” resident rate, have a friendlier commuter policy, have a reduced senior citizen option, have a system based on vehicle length. Got ideas? Contact J.King at skyfrme@gmail.com

Grindle Point Light Station

Ken Smith, Chair of the Lighthouse Committee requested permission from the Board to undertake a fundraising campaign to address the cost of restoration of five buildings: the Tower, Annex, Keeper’s House, Boat House, and Fuel House. The Committee hopes to raise enough funds (estimated at \$200K) through grants and private donations to not have to resort to taxation. The work will be prioritized with the foundation of the Keeper’s house top on the list (\$47K). The Board approved the fundraising request.

Health Center Endowment Fund

... now totals \$1,516,935.53

IMB

The annual Islesboro Municipal Broadband bills were sent out recently. The due date is August 31, 2023. *Please note: Anyone not paying by October 1 will have their internet service discontinued and be subject to a \$50 reactivation fee.*

Municipal Building Project

L. Bruce reported that team meetings were held- Mark Ouellette, representing S.B. Architects, representatives from Bennett HVAC & Electrical and Gartley & Dorsky Engineering, and members of the MBP Committee worked together on the application for Health Center building submitted to the Planning Board. The permit for the UpIsland Safety Garage is expected to be re-approved at the Aug. 7th meeting (see PB update on page 8). Construction for both buildings will be undertaken at about the same time- Oct. 2023- May 2024.

Energy Committee Cressica Brazier wrote a grant which was approved and moved forward by Senators Susan Collins and Angus King. The \$845,000 grant would be for energy equipment (solar panels for example) and medical equipment. The grant recipients will be notified in December and the \$\$ received mid-2024. (Please see article on page 1)

Quicksilver crew and schedule changes

A letter from the “Quicksilver Team” announced that Tres Martin had resigned to take another job and Captain Sean Farley, formerly employed by the Rockland windjammer fleet and day boats in Camden will be assuming the helm.

In terms of scheduling- QS will be answering phones from 6am-6pm and no longer making any runs after 10pm. This of course will impact nighttime ambulance runs. EMS Director Fred Porter reported he is reaching out to private boat owners who might be willing to fill the gap. J. Anderson suggested he also speak with the ferry service.

Revaluation

RJD Appraisal has completed the town-wide revaluation for the 2023 tax year. Notifications were sent out to all property owners with their new assessment. The tax amount is based on the new estimated tax rate of 11% (down from 18%) J. Anderson noted that former Town Assessor, Vern Ziegler used to say that revaluations usually resulted in 33% of taxpayers seeing a higher assessment, 33% lower and 33% the same. Those in the lowered 33% are probably happy but others with questions or concerns are invited to make an appointment with representatives of RFD Appraisal who will be available at the Town Office from Aug.14-17. Call 734-2253 to make an appointment.

Sea Level Rise Committee

The Committee is currently undertaking a series of small group meetings to share their work to date and gather information about residents’ concerns, which in turn will help inform the eventual plan for the Narrows. The first such meeting was held on July 20th with property owners living near the Narrows. A presentation was also made to the Sewing Circle (See related article on pages 9 & 21). If your organization or business is interested in a presentation, please contact Island Fellow Liv Lenfestey at olenfestey@islandinstitute.org.

Sewer Rates set

The Board approved the new Dark Harbor Wastewater Treatment Facility click rate of 11 cents (up from 9). The basic rate of \$400 remains the same.

Summer Informational Meeting...

...is set for August 10th at the Kinnicut Center- the evening of the day this issue went to print. Otherwise, we would have told you all about the reports from the Municipal Building Project and Sea Level Rise Committees, the ferry update and looming rate increase, the \$100K prize awarded to the energy Committee (See page 1) and the Ambulance Association video also shown at the annual Town meeting (takeaway- volunteers needed).



The Islesboro Sea Level Rise Committee (SLRC) has been hosting small group discussions around the island to open a community conversation on how to best prepare for increasing flooding events at the Narrows. The purpose of these meetings is to share the work that our committee has been doing and listen to and understand common community questions and concerns for the project. As we work toward publishing an Engineering RFQ and explore possible solutions, the more information we can gather from the community, the more success we expect in creating a plan to maximize durability and minimize environmental impacts and cost.


The first discussion took place with residents owing property around the Narrows. The event was hosted at the Alice Pendleton Library on July 20th and pulled an impressive crowd. The meeting opened with an overview by SLRC Chair, Shey Conover, followed by a presentation by Shri Verrill, a salt marsh scientist, ecological restoration professional and our contracted Project Facilitator and Planner. She explained foundational science of the effects Sea Level Rise and storm surge and the timeframe within which community members might expect the varying levels of “getting wet”. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has compiled global data sets to provide guidance with predicted SLR water levels and timeframes. However, defining what we know and what we don’t know, and creating transparency on both those ends, is an important step in our planning process.

Nancy Alexander, SLRC member and year-round resident, spoke to the work our committee has done to date, including the grants we have been awarded, the tide trackers we have deployed, and the Project Manager, Shri, whom we have hired to help our group develop preliminary designs that meet community need and permitting requirements. The meeting concluded with a Q and A in which a wide array of topics and concerns were covered, from noise pollution to doomsday events to cost and funding. The SLRC is working to update the town website so that FAQs and project updates may be found easily.

The committee also presented at the weekly meeting at The Sewing Circle on July 25th. SLRC members Sue Stafford and Nancy Alexander shared information on the effects of sea level rise, the work the SLRC has been doing, and listened and responded to community questions.

In August, the community will continue to nurture this important conversation with presentations at the Town Summer Information Meeting on August 10th and at the Islesboro Historical Society Board Meeting on August 16th. If you would like to host a Sea Level Rise Small Group discussion at your island organization or business, please email Liv Lenfestey, Island Fellow, at olenfestey@islandinstitute.org.

Submitted by Liv Lenfestey



Islesboro Municipal Broadband
Community Update August 2023
Important Phone Numbers:
Islesboro Subscriber Support Telephone Center - 24hr X 7-days:
1-(866) 494-2020
Press Option 1 then Option 3 to Connect to IMB-GWI Internet Support
For Subscriber Fees & Installations Call Town Office: (207) 734-2253
For GWI Phone Plan Questions: (866)-494-2020 – Option 1 then Option 2

Key Performance Statistics

- 712 active subscribers with additional installs pending..

You Should Know...

- If you are new in your house with working IMB service, make sure to email your name, address, and contact info to IMB@townofislesboro.com so we can update your subscriber information.
- If you’d like to install IMB standard 1-gigabit fiber service to your property, contact the Town Office.
- IMB not working properly?
 - Call the IMB-GWI support center at (866) 494-2020 if you are having an issue with your IMB Internet connection to assure the safest and quickest response.
 - Do not try to fix the issue yourself or hire an unauthorized person to do it.
 - Repair visits are generally free of charge during M-F business hours. Weekend or off hours repairs are available for an additional charge.
 - If you are dissatisfied with a service center response, please ask the call center to escalate your case to management.
 - If you are unable to resolve your issue through the service process, are dissatisfied with your IMB connection or just have a question, email us at IMB@townofislesboro.com - we will follow up with you.
- Janet Anderson, Town Manager holds monthly calls with GWI management to review issues and status.
- IMB Oversight Committee
 - a. Meetings via conference call. Agendas posted via Town’s email distribution. Public welcome.
 - b. Committee is: Roger Heinen, Vicki Conover, John Rex-Waller, Laura Graf & Hank Conklin. Phil Seymour represents the Select Board.

Email the IMB team with your questions, suggestions or concerns at:
IMB@townofislesboro.com

Select Board Meetings

Aug.16 & 30, Sept.13 & 27, Oct. 11 @ 6pm

Meetings are in person or via Zoom. Contact the Town Office for the link.