Peaks Island Independence Committee : IIC Steering Committee Minutes, May-10 Nov 2005.

Peaks Island Independence Committee

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IF PEAKS ISLAND SECEDES, WILL OUR TAXES GO DOWN?

Background: The City of Portland sets its budget, including the Peaks Island budget, and has every incentive to collect as much in taxes as it can get away with. The more money it collects, the more it can pay for its services and the less it needs to pay attention to whether the people of Peaks Island actually want to pay the bills they charge.

Peaks Island, as its own municipality, will be empowered to set its own budget, and will have the opposite incentive – to keep taxes low – because the impact of its collection practices and expenditures will be immediately felt.

SO, will our taxes go down?

Answer: If the City of Portland continues with the same policies and continues to have the same means test (under the Maine Constitution) for collecting property taxes, our taxes will continue to go up, and – most importantly – will continue to go up in huge increments. Past history is a fair predictor.

If Peaks Island becomes its own municipality, taxes will go down, because the people of Peaks Island will not have the incentive to make their taxes go up.

Of course, Peaks Island will have to cover the “price” of separation, which, as in a divorce, the City of Portland will try to make as high as possible. The good news: when separation is negotiated, there will be a finite number of $ that we taxpayers will have to pay to make parting of the ways a reality. This “separation cost” might make taxes stay the same (that was Long Island’s experience, in the beginning), but, thereafter, taxes will go down.

Belt-tightening is not the issue here. Fiscal responsibility for a healthy body politic is the issue. We simply need to work out the numbers. Working out the numbers cannot fail to convince the undecided that control of our own financial health is the best – and perhaps the only – means we have for keeping our property taxes under control.
Dear Mike,

Thanks for the review of last night's meeting and the calendar. I think that it will work for our group except for one change. I mentioned last night that Fire & Emergency probably couldn't be ready by 11/3. I spoke to Betty today and, indeed, she will be away 11/3 but will be prepared to give her presentation on 11/17. If you want Police and Fire & Emergency all on the same evening, then we can move Police up to 11/17 as well but, for now, here's how I see it.

Education: 10/20/05
Government: 11/3/05
Police: 11/3/05
Water and Sewer: 11/3/05
Land Use: 11/17/05
Fire & Emergency: 11/17/05
Public Works: 12/1/05
Social Services: 12/1/05
Finance: 12/15/05
My email address book is messed up. Can you please send this proposed agenda around to the IIC? Thanks.

Agenda for Oct. 20 Meeting of IIC:

1. Minutes (5 minutes)
2. Treasurer's report (5 minutes)
3. Fundraising letter status (5 minutes)
4. Petitions/Voter Registration list status (10 minutes)
5. Communications issue – Howard Pedliken (10 minutes)
6. Game Theory – Lowry Wyman (10 minutes)
7. Education Committee report (30 minutes)
8. Other issues (10 minutes)
9. Review/Closure (5 minutes)

Total: 1 hour, 30 minutes.
Oct 28 '05

Judy Beavock
Michael Richman
Russ Edwards
Howard Peddiboom
Will Mitchell
Dave Adams
Mary Mayo
Bud Childs
Art Astarita
Saroni Hennessey
Cynthia Cole
Shelba Angella
Phoebe Tedby

George & Celia Kredel
Stephens Castle
Lowry Warren
Michael & Bebe

148
Treasurer's Report -

There. Oct 20 '05

Bank balance: $867.85

Paid 2 donations - $100 for using space at church
already sent - $20 for stamps on fund raising letter
- thank you notes have been sent -

We owe Mr. J. M. W. $35.96 for stationery
9
$44.96 out of petty cash
- 1d. -
Peaks Island Independence – Steering Committee – Meeting
Minutes for October 20, 2005

Agenda:

1. Adoption of Minutes (of prior 2 meetings of Oct 6 &13) (5 min)

2. Treasurer's Report (5 min)

3. Fundraising Letter Status (5 min)

4. Petitions/Voter Registration List Status (10 min)

5. Communications Issue – Howard Pedlikken (10 min)

6. Game Theory – Lowry Wyman (10 min)

7. Education Committee Report (10 min)

8. Other Issues (10 min)

9. Review/Closure (5 min)

Total: 1 hour, 30 minutes (projected time)

Discussion:

1. Should we review and approve the Minutes? Do we have the time to spend at this meeting to do that? M. Richards will circulate the minutes of every meeting and offer changes if something was misstated. Motion to accept the minutes as presented: motion carried.

2. Bank balance is $867.85. Two donations were made to the church (for heat usage), and $20 were made for stamps to send out the fund-raising letter. No objection raised about J. Piawlock paying the bills as they come due. Motion to adopt the Treasurer's report: motion carried.

3. J. Piawlock reported that signatures on the fundraising letter have been received, and some uncertainty about the cost of copying the letter. R. Edwards felt strongly there should be a letter, an envelope, letterhead, etc., and 2 different kinds of ink (so instead of a “copied” letter, we’d have a “printed” letter). He said he was in the printing business so he knows what to do. He also repeated his view that the letters should be hand-addressed and hand-stuffed. Cost differential was cited as $250. A. Astarita reminded us that we do a letterhead with a laser printer. C. Rosol agreed that presentation is important. M. Mayo queried: isn’t there a
middle ground (using a scanner, etc.). Letterhead could be used as a template using a computer. The printed route is old technology. Very late in the game to be discussing this. M. Richards noted that this is the first fund-raising letter. We can do things differently next time. B. Heller weighed in, with the remark that a letterhead isn't need to persuade people to give money. R. Edwards insists that we need to decide what $ to spend (that's the principle here). A. Astarita explains we can do this cheaply, but can't change the letter as it is right now. Motion to have A. Astarita do the mock-up, buy envelopes from a printer, etc. Motion carried.

4. J. Piawlock's report: 587 signatures. Full report attached. M. Richards: are we working with the City to rework the official numbers? J. Piawlock is checking out the deceased. H. Pedliken: Aren't we doing the City's job? L. Wyman said we had already discussed this question and had agreed to work with the City. She added that she thought everything was up to negotiation, and we should not accept the word of the City yet. This is a significant political issue. We should meet with the Clerk, but wait until after the election.

5. H. Pedliken raised a concern about communications internally and externally. He would like to know whether there will be a report on this. M. Langella noted an initial report was made, and that a follow-up report will be made. He reminded the group that they started on internal affairs first. H. Pedliken thinks internal is now coming along, but what about external? He's concerned about external. What about that? We need to expand that. We need to readdress the question of an external, monthly memo. Issue raised again: why not use the Island Times? Need to identify someone who will write a regular column. Will offered his services last week on communications. He hasn't yet said what he will do. Forums were also mentioned as "in the works", but not yet developed in detail. P. Tedford noted that something specific needs to be communicated. Our schedule list of forums can be published. Question from the floor: why can't the minutes be condensed and imparted via The Island Times? A committee was formed on the spot, consisting of several people at tonight's meeting. H. Pedliken is concerned about divisiveness and about others worrying about fragmentation. These people - upstanding citizens - are very concerned about this. M. Richards mentioned a nice conversation with someone, with a person who had heard that we were going to cut funding for the school. He responded that he'd never heard such a thing. The efforts of the education committee are only to find out what it will cost - not to lower the cost. C. Rosol.

6. L. Wyman - presentation on Game Theory. Comments: C. Cole remarked that she liked the idea of mutually assured cooperation. M. Richards liked the idea of good relations with the City. M. Langella is
concerned that we focus on the outcome of all this work: for all the people on the island to get along with each other as well as possible, and that we all teach each other how to self-govern. We need to keep working. We want to be able to face people, look them in the eye. He thinks that will move us further down the line.

7. Education Committee Report by M. Langella: People should put questions down at the end, and share the copies that he is distributing. The 3x5 cards are for questions for us to follow up with.

Discussion of cool and hot: Cool is neutral (you don’t have an adversarial attitude towards this information); hot is jumping to a conclusion that may or may not be true. We want to start in the cool position: inquiring about whether it will cost to run the school.

Turned to a discussion of the three spreadsheets: The 1st is the bulk of the School Dept. budget on Peaks Island. Discussed details. Explained that all staff won’t necessarily show up on the budget. Peaks has many itinerant teachers. Overall budget: $905,000. There are 10 students on the island who go to private schools (K-12). That number changes every year. Principal has jurisdiction over the Cliff Island School. She devotes 1/9 of her salary ($4500) to Cliff. If we were our own town, the Principal’s role would change. Her time would be devoted to Peaks, so the Town could change that responsibility – adding a role to facilitate the development of technology at the school (which, incidentally, is woefully inadequate). Transportation is on another page. Bus charges are for students who leave Peaks and go to Middle School and High School on the mainland. M. Langella reviewed all the details. Noted that our expenses are almost final in this area. Turned to 3rd and final spreadsheet: Operating Expenses, etc. are very small. Budget for a school is 95% staffing costs. So, if we ever talk about cutting a school budget, we have to cut staff. (People were generally pleased with our estimate of a 50% increase in fuel and heating costs.) We still need insurance information – don’t know what the insurance premium is. Last but not least: capital improvements (the information is 3 years old). We’re trying to update this information. M. Langella discussed this in detail. Total: $2,700,000 or more, depending on what we decided to do – over the next 5-10 years, or so. Returning to the cover sheet, he outlined the key costs – for an overall budget of $1,000,000.

Questions from the floor: A. Astarita – these are costs as they are today? Every year the principal establishes a budget, and the superintendent will approve it, but that doesn’t necessarily mean that full amount will be spent. In some budget lines, there will be an increase or a decrease. When a town approves a school budget, is the school restricted to that line-item budget? M. Langella recalling his experience in Windham, the budget was not restricted to line items in all cases. Some tinkering in some categories
would be allowed. Different towns have different rules for this. We would establish the rules if we were established as an independent town. H. Pedlken is concerned about the amounts for computer technology. M. Richards notes that our task is to determine what the actual budget is and whether we have the wherewithal to take over the school as it stands now. Re substitute teachers – nothing mentioned. We are still waiting for more information: workmen’s compensation; substitute teachers. R. Edwards wants to know whether the State is subsidizing boat tickets. The State used to supply boat tickets. R. Edwards notes we need to look at that side of the ledger, as well. C. Rosol asked about the budget from a historical perspective: the number of students going down, primarily means the cost per student will be higher. Does the City of Portland build in a safety net for a special needs student? M. Langella noted that in Windham there was a contingency budget, from $200,000-1,000,000. We would be prudent to have a contingency budget in an independent budget. Re staffing: if we became our own town, would we able to share part-time staff with other districts? The part-time staff could theoretically change, but they would be hired based on the need for their services. Regarding staff (nurse, custodians, bus driver), what about them? In a small school, many staff wear a lot of hats, doubling or tripling up on various tasks. R. Edwards suggests that we look realistically at the budget: eliminate items such as trips to Cliff Island, and parking charges. M. Langella agrees to do this, but it is premature. R. Edwards thinks you should have this worked out for the forum. M. Langella responds that we’re about 95% there. A. Astarita: the recipe for getting all this information is set down, isn’t it? Isn’t there an analogous town that we can look at to get at the subsidy issue?

8. Other business – Non-resident taxpayer speaks up; says he’s very interested in this endeavor. S. Nunce is a reporter for The Island Times and The Forecaster. He concentrates on the latter. B. Heller says she is having trouble getting information from the City. She doesn’t know how to get the information from him. She went to see Tom Fortier, because she doesn’t have email. H. Pedlikken says he’s having trouble, too. C. Rosol also said that she had been told to “leave the buildings out of it” because it would be covered by the Finance Committee. Suggestion: contact Tom Fortier again and give him our schedule of presentations.

9. Review of tasks that have to be accomplished: recapitulation of the letter-handling, business. We need to set a date to fold and address everything. More discussion about how to solve this task. Re petitions – and 60 more people to contact, J. Piawlock will contact those last 60. We will leave for discussion on Nov. 3 what we’re going to do with the petitions after the election. Communications people will meet. Third annual conference re developing Maine neighborhoods – how to engage for better outcomes. Announcement reviewed for interest level. C. Cole is
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planning to attend. M. Richards asked for materials from the seminar that would be relevant.

Meeting adjourned.

Attachments: "Game Theory" by Lowry Wyman, with photocopy of a page from The Economist.
The members of the Education Committee have been successful to date in gathering information about the costs of providing educational services to the children of the Peaks Island. Members are Lowry Wyman, Mike Langella, Dave Parker, and Cynthia Cole. Lynne Richard has also contributed. Most of the information was taken from the public records of the Portland School Department budget.

Before I begin I want to share with you some brief but important facts. Because Peaks Island School has many itinerant teachers who service Peaks children, the Peaks Island part of the Portland School Department budget does not show the complete cost of providing services. And, the transportation costs listed in the PSD budget include Cliff Island costs. Education Committee members have increased our understanding of the costs of providing services here and have found important information on their own. We have also asked many questions about the budget. Upon our request, Randy Stewart, former employee of the Portland School Department, and Tom Fortier have facilitated the responses to our questions and inquiries. Some of this information was clarified by the former Peaks Island School Principal. We are still waiting for more information to our inquiries and will continue to refine our knowledge of the Peaks Island School budget. Here is what we have to date.

**Peaks Island School expenses:**

- **Spreadsheet # 1. Salaries, Tuition, and Benefits** $905,544
- **Spreadsheet # 2. Transportation Costs-Students and Adults** $81,206
- **Spreadsheet # 3. Operating Costs and Maintenance** $41,043

**Estimated Total.** $1,027,793
Peaks Island School Salary and Benefit Costs

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* The Peaks Principal services Cliff Island. One-tenth of her Principal role is devoted to Cliff. If the Principal didn't need to service Cliff then a one-tenth reduction in her salary could occur, approximately $6891, or that amount of money could fund other services at the school.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bus Charges</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boat Passes</td>
<td>$53,160</td>
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<tr>
<td>Van on Island</td>
<td>$3,787</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fuel for Van</td>
<td>$504</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Trips</td>
<td>$590</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Tickets - not specified</td>
<td>$821</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Student Transportation</strong></td>
<td><strong>$64,962</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Garage Parking*</td>
<td>$8,370</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff Development-Conferences</td>
<td>$652</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Boat Passes</td>
<td>$2,099</td>
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<td>Adult Boat Tickets</td>
<td>$2,548</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cliff trips to Mainland</td>
<td>$75</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Staff/Adult Transportation</strong></td>
<td><strong>$16,064</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

| Total Transportation Costs                 | **$81,028** |

* This represents 7 spaces in the parking garage for 9 months and 5 spaces for 3 months.

* This represents the cost of hiring the water taxi for transportation to Cliff.
Operating Expenses, Maintenance and Capital Improvements

**Operating Expenses**

- Postage: $200
- Photocopying: $664
- Office Supplies: $787
- Teaching Supplies: $3,964
- Books and Material: $1,445
- Library Books: $984
- Audio/Visual Materials: $137
- Computer Supplies: $206
- Dues and Fees: $859

Total Operating Expenses: **$9,246**

**Utilities**

- Electricity: $6,072
- Water/Sewer: $2,228
- Heat*: $18,153

Service Contract:
- 6 Phone Lines: $4,712
- 2 Cell Phones: $132

Total Utilities: **$31,797**

**Total Operating Expenses and Utilities**: **$41,043**

**Building Value**: $1,125,681

**Insurance**: ?

**Capital Improvements - 3 yr. old**

- Roof: $200,000
- Boiler, HVAC and Electrical: $800,000
- Windows/Masonry: $230,000
- Elevator: $230,000
- Fire Stair: $60,000
- Renovations and Abatement*: $1,000,000
- Playground: $100,000

Possible Capital Improvements: **$2,720,000**

* With a 50% increase in fuel costs this amount may be close to $27000 for 2005-2006

* We are investigating this. We want to know if there is asbestos in the school.
Oct 6, 2005  ITC Mtg

Art Astroita
Michelle Francis
Sarah Hennessey
George Rose
Chris Royle
Pan Todd
Martha Callas
Richard Alter
M. Brunette
Linda Capone-Newton
Ken Kemworthy

Ross
Lowry Wyman
Cynthia Cole
Mike Targella
Jaila Price
Michael Richards
Ross Edwards

Judy Rawlock
Here's my proposed agenda:

1. Minutes of last meeting.
2. Treasurer's report.
4. City's new voter registration list.
5. Fund-raising.
6. Forums.
7. Committees: reports and plans.
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<th>Count</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
<th>% of Voters</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Potential</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>11.69%</td>
<td>16.80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Signed</td>
<td>565</td>
<td>51.60%</td>
<td>74.15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refused</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>6.30%</td>
<td>9.06%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moved</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>28.68%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deceased</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1.00%</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cushing Is.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.73%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>1095</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td>New PI Voters List Total</td>
<td>762</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Island</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pumpkin Knob</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Agenda
Island Independence Committee
Organizational Structure Sub Group
October 4, 2005
7:00-8:30

Decide facilitator, timekeeper, and notetaker

Review meeting guidelines and roles (2-5 minutes)
Report from sub group (12-15 minutes)
Discussion of report (30 minutes)
Discuss agenda for Thursday’s steering committee meeting (15 minutes)
Summarize meeting and next steps (15 minutes)

Meeting Guidelines

1. Listen respectfully
2. Stay on topic
3. Encourage participation of everyone in attendance by being mindful of your own participation.
4. Clarify the expectations for each item on the agenda: is this a topic for discussion? Or is does this topic require a decision?
5. If decisions are needed: who participates, will the decision be made by consensus? By a vote?
6. Clarify before the end of the meeting: timelines for implementation, responsible person(s), and reporting mechanism for progress.
Island Independence Committee
Organizational Sub-group
October 2, 2005

The organizational subgroup (Beth, Linda and Mike L.) met to discuss next steps leading toward improved organizational functioning for the IIC.

The following steps were agreed upon:
• Meet with Mike R., Judy and Russ on Tuesday, Oct. 4 to share our thoughts about the organization.
• Use that meeting to model a meeting process that includes an agenda, times frames for conversation, time keeper, and uses some charts to provide visual cues for the meeting process.
• The information will be presented as follows:
  1. History of IIC (Beth and Mike L.)
  2. Present status of the organization (Beth and Linda)
  3. What's next? (Mike L.)

Discussion points:
• The organization that began in April is different (?) than the organization that is currently meeting.
• There are many people on the island who are wondering what the next steps are in the process that was begun by the large group that initially met in April.
• The organizational structure that was introduced by Cevia at a meeting in May was never apparently approved by a vote of the group.
• The conversation begun by Cevia's articulate presentation must be resumed in order for the IIC to develop into an organization capable of sustaining a long term movement towards secession.
• Some key points from Cevia's May presentation:
  "the framers (of the legislation)....made the very process of seeking self-governance an exercise in self-governance" (P.1, p 3)
  "We must not be arrogant or confrontational or ill-spirited or overly sensitive. This is their island as well as ours and they have the right to their own opinions. And if and when we become a town, they will have a vote. They will have a say .....we invite them to sit down with us as we discuss our future." P.1 p.4
• Unclear organizational structure has resulted in a confusing decision making process with frustrating meetings and email round robins.
• Unrecognized leadership --- there is little acknowledgement and accountability regarding the work of the committees and people completing the tasks that have been done to get the process to the current place.
• Steps must be taken to clarify the organization's structure, to develop leadership roles with clear expectations, and to conduct meetings in a manner that invites participation in a respectful inclusive manner that leads to building community.
• Clarify the goal of the IIC --- self-governance: government on Peaks Island unencumbered by the issues of a larger city and boat schedules and with increased participation by the many talented citizens of this island.

Proposed Time Line
Oct 4 present ideas to IIC leadership
Oct 6 bring issues back to steering committee group
Oct 20 scheduled general group meeting is postponed until Saturday, Oct 22 with an extended time frame to develop an organizational structure.
End of Oct/Early Nov petitions are turned into City of Portland November a series of public forums facilitated by a professional mediator are held to engage the community around the issues.

Food for thought:
How this group conducts itself sends a strong message to everyone about what kind of community Peaks Island is now and what kind of community the Town of Peaks Island would be.
This summary prepared by Linda Capone-Newton

Beth Childs, Mike Langille and Linda Capone-Newton met with Russ, Mike Richards and Judy to review our progress to date.

We discussed:
- How the group conducts itself; what is the group's purpose; what kind of community; Peels Island is now and what kind of community the Island Plans Trust would be.
- Modifications around agendas, discussion time frames, meeting guidelines, made some suggestions for improving the meeting process and hopefully increasing participation in the group.
- Asked for clarification of the connection of the Island Independence Committee and another group that have met around tax issues and if the document presented by Dave was an accurate starting point.
- Communication challenges regarding the use of email.
- Communication with the larger island community on the progress of the petition process and information that has been gathered thus far.
- Discussed the need to broaden the message for independence to one of self-governance in addition to taxes.

The next steps for the organization sub-group:
- Develop bylaws that will dictate membership, the roles of the steering committee, the general membership, the decision-making process.
- Report back to the large group meeting Oct 20, 2005.
Report of Public Services Group to ICC Steering Committee  
October 5, 2005

Social Services & Library - There is nothing to report at this time.

Public Works & Water Transportation

Jeff Reaman submitted a comprehensive list of questions regarding **public works** and had a response from Mike Dubinsky in late August. This includes information about equipment, employees and contract labor, and costs of projects and maintenance. We are currently reviewing his answers to those questions and hope to be working with Jeff on this over the next few weeks to see if there is further information needed and to arrive at a negotiated budget.

Pete Mayo has done an analysis of the data for the **harbor master** and an estimate of revenue to the town from the surrounding marinas. The data to the town, for example, sales, benefits, equipment, supplies, maintenance, etc. is still under investigation. There also remains questions about town’s relationship with CCP as well as the $60,000 figure on Tom Farley’s list and the costs of contracting with Planet for transport of equipment, fuel, and so on.

With the invaluable help of Art Astoria and Lynn Richards, George submitted a list of questions about **water and sewer** (and particularly the waste water treatment system) to Ron Miller of WWQ. These have been answered and are in the process of being reviewed by the committee. Mr. Miller has made it clear that he is prepared to cooperate and answer any other questions that may arise. We should have more on this by the next meeting of the steering committee.

One interesting thing to note: the Town of Peaks Island would need to dispute to be either a member of the District with responsibility towards the District default or a non-member community whose residents would pay a 15% water rate differential.

Police, Fire & Medical Emergency

Betty Miller was one of the first ones in with questions, been addressed to Fire Chief LaMontagne. He responded, but not to everyone’s satisfaction. This was prior to the arrangement with the city to route all questions through Tam, and Betty is using this method to complete her investigation. She is also looking into the emergency medical budget.

Michelle Travers has been working diligently gathering information about the **police services** to the island. She received projected figures from the Sheriff of Cumberland County for possible
sent us to the Town of Peaks Island. She then took these figures and reviewed them to come up with different scenarios.

The three of us (Michelle, George and Gary) then sat down and reviewed the materials and came up with two possible plans, which we will submit to the Finance Group for review. The cost of the various plans range from about $964,000 to about $1,017,000. The seemingly arbitrary figures of $955,869 on Town's original sheet budget Police Department = salaries, benefits, equipment; needs to be clarified.
Michelle has requested this information but has not yet received an answer from Tam. Without having this information at hand, it appears that the city pays out salaries on a much lower scale than the county would, since the figure the sheriff gives for the same coverage that we have now is about twice what Tam says the city is paying.

Without going into too much detail at the time, we estimate that the plan that the three of us favor at this time, would cost the town approximately $965,000 a year. The Sheriff's Department would supply the deputies, with one officer on duty 24 hours a day, throughout the year, and an additional officer 16 hours a day, during the 14 weeks of summer. During the times when there is an extra officer, we would need a backup person on the island to help if needed. The cost of this is difficult to ascertain, but it shouldn't be called for often. By the way, these estimates include certification training for the deputies as EMTs and fire fighters.

The figures given are conservative. For example, the funds allotted by the sheriff for hospitalization allows family coverage for all of the deputies—a worst case scenario. The funds that we have allotted for a vehicle call for the purchase of a new police car (with payments of $80,000 a year over a period of five years). But it is impossible at this time to estimate the cost of fuel and we had to do some serious guessing—but these are small items in the big picture. With the talented folks we have on our island, we can surely be creative—interested funds for an environmentally friendly alternative we can police vehicle? Cops on bikes? On horses?

There are other plans worth considering at some point, with having our own constabulary, but that's something to be addressed once we are an independent body. For now, we should consider keeping things fairly close to what they are.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary & George Beal
1) **Discussion** of reviewing minutes of prior meeting before next meeting and not spend time reading prior minutes at the meeting – change e-mail version if necessary and vote to approve at meeting.

Updated e-mail addresses: Bob Dahl – rmdahl55@yahoo.com
M.J.: MaryJane.Burnette@acadia-ins.com

Art will consolidate and send out e-mail list. Bring printed minutes of last two meetings to next one.

2) **Treasurer’s report**: same as last meeting, but Judy spent $15 of her own money for new voter registration list – she donated.

3) **Petition dovetails with No. 4, voter registration list.** New Petition Status list circulated and explained by Judy and Art. New voter list just received from Portland has some newly registered voters. “New Peaks Island Voters List Total” is IIC list, some added, some taken off. 885 active voters on Peaks, 221 inactive – from Linda Cohen. The ones Linda has as inactive we have as moved.

Discussion of what is a registered voter. If there’s an asterisk on a name and the person doesn’t vote or confirm residence, after 4 years they’re removed from the voter registration list unless they prove residence. Discussion of whether some of our certified signatures can be kicked off by Portland. If we have to wait 4 years before they’re removed, will this affect our total we need? Examples of some inaccuracies are people duplicated, or 10 dead that have not been removed from the new voter registration list.

Count now is 576 signatures per Judy. We need 25 more.
Judy can identify 25 we can possibly get.
The new total is 13 more we need.
Options: 1. expand deadline past 10/31
2. turn in as is
3. work with Portland to determine accurate number

Art: committees need to have all info together before submit petition, present this to IIC, identify pitfalls and re-couch. Then inform Peaks. Do all of this before submit signatures – delay submission – till next year? (which would be Option 1 above) We can identify groups to talk to Portland about such as moved, deceased, etc.
Russ: people are questioning the rush on signatures
Mike: this is self-imposed by IIC to keep us going – we’re there
Russ: Linda hasn’t taken off people who haven’t voted – we need to know why.
Consensus: have Fortier pass contradictions on numbers of signatures to Cohen.

Russ: motion to allow petition committee to put questions on numbers to Fortier and flesh this out when get results, go from there; and leave petition process open – seconded by George Rosol. Committee is Judy, Art and Lowry – motion passed unanimously.

4) Fund-raising letter discussed – mail as is? Any changes? Address letters using names or just Dear Peaks Islander? Can we use mail-merge? Art said yes. There will be 1800 to 2000 letters. Cevia suggested a workshop to stuff envelopes.

Discussion of putting Peaks Islander on envelopes and letters. This has been done by other Island organizations. Art has the latest tax rolls from the city with addresses. There are 524 names of Peaks property owners, addresses off-island. Art could try to have this done by 10/21. The money should be sent to: IIC, P.O. Box 154, Peaks Island, ME 04108. 501(c)(3) status discussed, tax-exempt organization – people giving large contributions may want to write it off. Discussion of writing check to Peaks Island Endowment Fund – we can become an umbrella of an organization already on the island – just ask them, Lions Club, Fifth Maine, Legion, PILP. Cynthia Pediliken applying – go under hers? She’s getting it pro bono. Fund-raising committee should do this – Mary Mayo, recommended by Russ.

5) New Town “Seal” shown and passed around for T-shirts (designed by Mark Shain). We could get 100 and make $700 – have to spend money to make money. All agreed to getting the T-shirts done – do this after fund-raising letter goes out? Next summer? Will depend on what we make from letters.

6) Forums: promote and engage ourselves so we can have discussion on the island? Diane Kente (sp?) and Barbara Taylor said PINA would be glad to help. PINA may be opposed to secession because it would make PINA irrelevant. PINA represents Peaks’ needs to Portland. If we say Peaks is not represented adequately by Portland, it could imply PINA is not doing their job (Don Webster, Gene and Kay Taylor). PINA meeting – couldn’t talk about school, Public Works, and other issues because there wasn’t enough time.

Art suggested we have one topic at each meeting that we focus on to be cohesive and help each other. This can help us practice before we make a presentation to Portland. Concern over leadership of Peaks has been
expressed by PINA. We need to get the focus off taxes; i.e. are Peaks’ roads criteria the same as Portland, the largest city in Maine?

Discussion: how much does IIC need to know re committee reports? Should we do this on a weekend so we can get adequate detail; i.e. practice and get opposing views? All yeses doesn’t help us. Proposal of one in-depth committee report per meeting. Judy – rent school auditorium and have our own forums, not through PINA. Proposal of time frames for committee reports, forums, but this is somewhat hampered by timeliness of info coming from Portland. Next meeting, for example, the education committee can have a preliminary report and take 30-45 minutes. The topic of the evening would start at 7:30. Cevia said the police report can be ready. Legislature will require that we prove we can take care of ourselves – what will secession cost Portland and can we solve this without secession? Frank Langella suggested the committee heads meet and sub-committees if possible. 10/13 at 8:00 – proposed committee meeting and lay out timeline, update chairs and sub-committees by e-mail.

7) Organizational SubGroup Report by Linda Capone-Newton – attached

8) Public Services Group Report by Cevia and George Rosol – attached

9) New Meeting Place? Judy shared letter from minister asking for money from us – everyone else who uses this venue pays something. Judy will find out if the community room is available for our meetings.

Art moved to adjourn the meeting, Lowry seconded.
Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Recorder: Janis B. Price
EVERYONE WELCOME

13

VOTERS

STEERING COMMITTEE

MEETING

THURSDAY

2006

BRACKET

SEPT. 15-17

MEETINGS - WEEK

Y

INDEPENDENCE

7pm

ISLAND
Sept. 15 2005 Meeting -

- attending -

Judy Pavlicko - 766-2109
Russ Edwards - 744-5509
Howard Pediliria - 766-0067
'Kim' Kowalchuk - 4 2740
George Rose - 0059
Liz Rose - 0059
Martha Callow - 2725
Richard Callow -
Lowry Wyman - 2778
Joan & Charlie Kostowka - 2247
Jeff Robbins - 9761
Mike Landella - 3067
Linda Capone-Newton - 5024
Michael Richards - 2498
Here is my proposed agenda for the Steering Committee meeting on Thursday, 9/15. Please let me know if you have any additions or other comments. If I've left people off my email list that you think should review this, please feel free to forward this to them. Thanks.

1. Secretary and Minutes
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Fund-raising Letter
4. Communications, Internal and External
5. Petitions update
6. Forum(s)
7. Committees
8. Other
Peaks Island Independence – Steering Committee Minutes, 15 Sept 2005

First Order of Business – to approve the Minutes from the last meeting. Our purpose is to accept them as generally accurate; we don’t plan to revise them unless absolutely necessary. Minutes approved. Reminder: there will be one set of Minutes approved at each meeting.

Turning to the Agenda (appended to last week’s Minutes):

M. Richards: notes that there was some discussion about having the minutes done by 2 people. There should be one set of minutes. This is our basic understanding: Janice is our minute-taker, when she’s here. When she’s not here, someone else will stand in for her; that’s all.

Treasurer’s Report: $867.85. Monies spent to date amount to $196.63; these are a donation by Judy Piawlock. Amount accepted.

Re Fund-Raising Letter: Lowry and Barnabas edited the letter, and sent it around for comment. The draft being circulated today reflects an additional revision by A. Astarita.

Discussion regarding 2nd sentence: R. Edwards reminded the group that this letter was drafted by a professional fundraiser, in response to islanders’ “anger”. Another concern: this letter is a statement for the whole island. One way to deal with it is to put a quotation around the words: “I felt the Town Council turned a deaf ear to me”. Another voice: this tone about taxes is delicate; it’s important when we first go to the public that we aren’t inflammatory. At the same time, what is important is to be clear: this letter is intended to generate funds. It has to move people. Otherwise, they won’t get their checkbooks out. The original letter was a little bland.

The letter is moved for adoption with a couple of amendments (as attached): Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion regarding meeting only on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays every month:

Query: Will one of these 2 meetings be for the Steering Committee only? How should we handle it? Perhaps we should have one meeting as a business meeting only. We can offer to anyone to join the Steering Committee. We, of course, want to avoid people offering things at the 11th hour. Another perspective: perhaps our issue is: what is the framework of the conversation at the meeting. We need to think about how we work on joint work product. It would be helpful to have time limits, with the conversation moving on in a regular pattern. We also need to establish
ground rules – how deep an involvement we invite – to be able to keep the conversation going. Query: how would you apply this to the issue at hand? Moderator requested guidance.

Further conversation about procedure and voting. M. Richards felt everyone should vote. Everyone should participate. We should do this in a reasonable way. We shouldn't shut anyone out. Motion: We should structure the Steering Committee meetings in such a way that we encourage maximum participation, and allow everyone to vote.

Moderator: We should, then, adopt a protocol that everyone should be invited to the meeting, and everyone should be allowed to vote.

Hypothetical scenario posed by G. Rosol: anybody could come in with a large group and could throw the vote.

Reminder by the Moderator of an actual scenario: people came over to the island from the mainland and voted on island business; their votes were counted!

M. Langella proposed this model: a public meeting, and a workshop. The workshop is one where a consensus is reached, and no formal votes are taken. In the open forum/the public meeting, a substantive issue can be presented for a vote. Rejoinder: Our comfort level would be higher if the vote of the Steering Committee could be considered as a recommendation only, which would then be submitted to the larger body (the community as a whole).

Problem: We’re talking about rules for how to govern the community. Everybody knows what is expected when we know what the framework is, but we have a problem when we don’t have a framework to work from.

Motion repeated: to allow the general public to participate in discussion and voting on both meetings every month.

Some backtracking by the proponent of the motion: doesn’t want chaos.

Motion voted on: it failed.

Discussion about going back to the drawing board and setting up rules. A framework already is set up, but details need to be put in. L. Capone-Newton agreed to work out the details; this seemed appropriate, as she is a member of the Governance Committee. M. Langella volunteered to help. Email: lcaponenewton@yahoo.com.
Discussion about internal communications: Proposal to develop an internal email list, to use to circulate all communications. The moderator listed several people who are not yet on the internal email list. Let's do this: Set up a Steering Committee list, and then a list for the Committee of the Whole. Let's all agree to use the Reply All function as much as possible, assuming, of course, the communication is relevant. Let's agree to circulate the draft minutes of the prior meeting, as well as the agenda for the upcoming meeting, in advance of that upcoming meeting. This was generally agreed.

Re external communications: We haven't communicated much externally. The website, while it has useful information, is not updated regularly. Suggestion: to have a decision at the end of each meeting on what to post to the website. Suggestion: task the Communications Committee with posting a Bulletin via email. Suggestion: have the Communications Committee publish a summary in the Island Time and in The Star. We need a two-tier system – both email and print (that will also lower our costs).

Comments about responding to the Letter to the Island Times, and getting a newsletter started: we need someone from the Communications Committee at every meeting. We need to have people who will be accountable. Jim Hayman might be approached. He might be willing to help. Vanessa can't do it. She does not have suggestions for alternatives. M. Richards notes that there was an article in the paper today, and there was an internet poll: 392 people responded “yes” – 71%. We should check tonight when we go home to see how many people have responded since this morning.

Updates on news and other business: J. Piawlock was interviewed for local tv today. K. Taylor was also interviewed. The report will presented on tv tonight.

Community Center: Sat. morning – from 9 am to noon, there will be a tax meeting. Perhaps there will be a discussion about a special circuit breaker program for Peaks Island.

Monday, Sept 19, at 5pm: the City Council’s workshop is open to us. We are invited to attend. We also might invite Tom Fortier to come to one of our meetings.

Tuesday, Sept 20, is the PINA meeting. Time: 7:30 pm.

Petitions: J. Piawlock notes that there are about 16 people collecting the last 260 or so signatures. Our numbers: 525 yes; 40 no; 10 new registered
voters. Some discussion about difficulties locating people because the data provided by the City is out of date or incomplete.

Letter to the Editor – read by the group. Comment: There’s a piece to this: the people want this all to be conducted on a higher level. People who know how to conduct this kind of conversation can do a fabulous job. Comment re wanting information: this goes back to the beginning – we don’t yet have real numbers. It’s all very well and good to have forums, but we don’t have the numbers yet.

L. Wyman suggested that Governor King could be invited to look at the problems faced by Peaks Island as a small town. This could be a way of opening up the discussion, and moving beyond just secession versus non-secession.

Request to have written reports – with numbers – at the next meeting, set for October 6, 2005.

C. Rosol noted that the town of Farmington has a population of 7,500 people and that their budget is under $5,000,000. They have an excellent school system.

Meeting adjourned. About 15 people were in attendance.
ISLAND
INDEPENDENCE
COMMITTEE

TABLE IN FRONT OF
STORE THIS SATURDAY
THE 3RD AND SUNDAY
THE 4TH — 8AM - 1PM.
TO SIGN PETITIONS!

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY
SEPT. 8 - 7PM. — BRACKETT
CHURCH

EVERY ONE WELCOME
Sept 8 '06
J. D. C. Meeting - attending

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<td>Jody Rawlock</td>
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<td>Rust Edwards</td>
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<td>Dick Sprunger</td>
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<td>Lowry Wyman</td>
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AGENDA IIC MEETING SEPTEMBER 8, 2005

( One day before tax day)

1. New budget
   Changes -

2. Fund raising letter
   Some Changes

3. News letter - Eric &

4. Substitute moderator - Mike Langella

5. Deadline for budget meeting.

6. Other

Workshop - Sept 19 th  5 pm.

Sept 20th - pine.
  7:30 pm
MINUTES OF MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2005

1) Russ and committee discussed Island Times article in rebuttal of Mike's secession article.

   Budget: New budget has been reduced considerably, $75,000, legal down to $50,000. Have eliminated T-shirts, consulting $164,000, leaving $75,000 we need to raise. We could eliminate a consultant because we could get lots of professional help for much less money.

2) Fund-raising letter: Is it relevant or appropriate to emphasize the tax issue so much? Portland can rebut this by saying they'll send more money our way. This can be a red herring and a catalyst, but there are more reasons for self-governance than just the tax issue. We don't want that to remain the sole issue. Taxes can be the catalyst that moves us into self-government.

   George: if it takes $3 million to run Peaks, the other $2 million can help to ease the tax burden.

   Dick: approach can be secession can help with taxes, and by the way, we can save some money.

   Other discussion: closing schools is an example of another issue encouraging us to consider secession, aside from taxes. Taxes may turn out to be a weak argument; i.e., North Deering could say the same thing we are, that taxes are too high for the services we get. We should list our issues; for example, 5 reasons to separate from Portland. Should we have a meeting solely devoted to this? We need to have a coherent message to the community re secession and put that in the fund-raising letter.

   M.J.: would Augusta shoot us down if taxes are the only issue?

   Russ: no, because this is the first time in our history people are being forced out of their homes because of taxes. This may not be Portland's fault but government, and secession will solve that.

   Discussion of Long Island: we won't have the same legislation Long had. We'll have a listing of assets and liabilities. Long just went for "fair and equitable".

   We've been contributing to Portland -- we're entitled to a proportionate share of services.

   Russ asked everyone to be jotting down reasons for secession, a list of grievances. Eric said these shouldn't be easily addressed by Portland if backed into a corner; i.e. taxes. Russ said if they could get the tax issue fixed that easily, great, but there are other issues. Portland is applying their big-city solutions to the small community of Peaks.

   $25,000 is for a lawyer -- says is the cost associated with bringing this to the legislature. We shouldn't represent this as the "price of admission". This needs to be raised by 12/1.
We need to distinguish between tax relief and island independence. $9,000 raised so far, but doesn't solve the problem. Suggestion letter should say we need to raise $25,000 for legal services and perhaps as much as an additional $50,000 for supplies and other subsequent professional services; i.e. lobbyist, consultant, attorney could be more than $25,000. These letters will go to potential contributors. Portland is getting $5 million. Where is the extra $2 million going? It's not coming back here.

We want to mail the fund-raising letter ASAP.

Lowry: make it a top priority to do a position paper with our concerns – have subcommittee draft one?

Eric: on communications committee will accept our ideas by e-mail at eric@deliberate-design.com. We should try to do this before next week.

3) News letter: Vanessa is not ready yet after having her baby – people don't know what's going on. Art has (or can do) mailing labels – send news letter once every week or two, once a month? Keep brief so people will read it all. We should print 800 to 1,000 copies. There are some letters in the notebook, more than a dozen. Russ and John Whitman did some. Didn't publish opposing views in prior newsletter efforts, but the opposition can make their own views known. Eric will see if the communications committee can do newsletter, and e-mail is another idea. Art has said he would like to have the e-mail list – maybe he could do this, and Eric also from the web site.

4) Substitute moderator: because sometimes Mike can't be here (he's not here tonight) Mike Langella volunteered.

5) Deadline for budget meeting: only one report from one committee right now. We need to 1) come up with numbers; 2) identify missing info. This is for the town budget. We don't want to “churn” indefinitely. There is some problem getting numbers from Portland. We should put a deadline date in requests to Portland for info.

9/19 at 5:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 2d floor, Portland City Council is holding a meeting/workshop. We can attend, but not speak. We should have as many Peaks Islanders there as possible.

6) Petition: per Judy, we have over 520 signatures, 42 no's, undecided, 268 moved = 825 voters, 260 maximum names we still need to get. Lowry assigned people to get these and read them off. We should have all signatures by 10/1. When we submit the final number, we'll also submit an affidavit and detailed list.

7) Rebuttal letter in Island Times discussed – authors were major opponents of secession last time. Following are points of the rebuttal letter discussed.
1) flaws – Portland giving help through PILP
2) sewage treatment plant – meetings Portland holds out here = ploy. John Whitman got waiver from EPA, who said don’t have sewage problem, have political problem. We’re the only other one besides San Francisco in history to get one.
3) Police here are not EMTs, nor are the firefighters. Have Mike or someone address the issues sooner rather than later. Russ will ask John to address sewage treatment plant. PINA has not taken a position on secession.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Recorder: Janis B. Price
ISLAND
INDEPENDENCE COMMITTEE
MEETING - AUG. 25th
BRACKETT CHURCH
ALSO
TABLE AT STORE
THIS WEEKEND FOR SIGNING PETITIONS.
SAT. + SUN. 9AM - NOON 20th 21st
EVERYONE IS WELCOME
8/26/05

Attending meeting

Indy Rawlock 766-2609
Art Astavita 766-3065(w)

Cynthia Cole " - 555-0
Richard Callow 766-2725
Martha Callow 766-2725

Al "Kev" Kenworthy 766-2740

Joyce Richard 766-2984
Pamela Tedford 766-4448
Mary Mayo 766-2831

Mike Languella 766-3067

Michael Richards 2498

Laurie Wyman 766-2778
Initial Remarks about Beliveau by M. Richards: Beliveau is convinced this is something that can be done, so it's inspiring (however, he might like to serve as Peaks Island’s Town Counsel; that might be the motivation behind his interest in representing us).

Re fund raising: Russ Edwards’ recommendation was that we try to obtain an initial amount of $25,000 by December 21 – to give Beliveau at least a $10,000 retainer, and to cover other expenses. On the assumption that our total budget would be $100,000, we should try to raise the first $25,000 as soon as possible. Various people noted that it is important to put before Peaks Islanders what this effort is going to cost, and not be penny-wise and pound-foolish.

Query: who should receive our initial fundraising letter, just Peaks Islanders, or people on the mainland? The mailing list is from the tax assessor’s list, so the letter would go out to all residents and seasonal homeowners. Our first fundraising letter will be sent out after Labor Day. We’ve now got a P.O. Box: 154. This is the box for the Peaks Island Independence Committee.

Another voice: we need to be as good as the people on Chebeague. Our message must be clear. Channel 6 and the Portland papers are looking for a clear message. We need to establish a list of talking points that resonate, so that people on the fence will come over to our side.

Re getting the signatures we need: we need to establish a timeline. We decided we would finish up the petition drive by October 1.

More discussion about the facts: the fact sheets are too verbose, and too numerous. We need to condense this information down – create a statement that is not more than one page. We need to paint a picture of what the pain will be if we don’t act to govern ourselves now. M. Richards will talk with the Communications Committee about fine-tuning our message.

Regarding communicating with Tom Fortier, we hope that we can proceed along the lines of the email that M. Richards sent out. So far, we haven’t tested this process; we’ll see how things evolve.

Re the Land Use Committee: A. Astirita reported a concern about paper streets, some of which might revert to the record owners before Peaks Island becomes a town. Traditional access to the water, including beach-access right of ways, is another issue. The City is still completing its 3-year old survey of the island.
Note was made of the City Council’s plan to hold a workshop regarding secession in September. Workshops are generally closed to public debate, but we could offer to submit information for this workshop. We agreed we should do this.

J. Piawlock talked to Mark Shane about updating the T-shirt, with an updated “seal”. She talked also about creating a jigsaw puzzle for a fundraiser, circulating a photograph that we all liked.

Finally, beginning with the Thursday after Labor Day, we will meet every Thursday.
### Meeting - Aug 18 -

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187
ISLAND INDEPENDENCE COMMITTEE MEETING
THE FIRST + THIRD THURSDAYS
Aug. 4 7 p.m.
Aug. 18
BRACKETT CHURCH
SECOND PHASE OF
COLLECTING SIGNATURES
EVERYONE IS WELCOME
AGENDA

ISLAND INDEPENDENCE COMMITTEE

Thursday
August 4, 2005

Moderator- Mike Richards

1. Treasurers Report
2. Petition Drive
3. Letter from Severin Beliveau
4. Fund raising/Budget
5. From the committees
6. Other business
Attending Meeting 8/4/05

Ivy Seabrook 766-2109

Jane B. Price 0051

Jane Lamb 0014

Michael B. Price 2498

Dick Lamb 0014

HOWARD PEOLIKIN 0067

Bonnie Steck 2340

Pat & Skip Cummings 5847

Jeff Robbins 9761

Eric Eaton 2243

Bob Kahn 2630

Kent & Barbara Kerwokzy 2740

M. Burdette 5933

Doug MacVane - 766-2213

Alicia Rosal 0059

George Rosal 0059

Austin Atlanta 3065(n)

Charles Burr 712-2433

Michele Traces 766-2453

Loury Wyman 766-2778

Ann Edwards 766-3501

Edward Ezzard 766-2858

Francis Hay
MINUTES OF MEETING
AUGUST 4, 2005

1) Agenda passed around.

2) Mike Richards mentioned correspondence from various people – letter from Pete Mayo re two public docks on Peaks, Army Dock and Forest City, and Harbor Master issues – who is responsible? Harbor Master didn’t know. We should ask police. What’s public and what isn’t? Enforcement may cause resentment against secession.

3) August Working Waterfront issue – Moriarty dealing with Chebeague’s secession. Bottom line: secession is up to legislature. We don’t want that. Standards have been set, unlike ’93 attempt. Legislature should say yes if we meet standards, but it can say no.

   Most important: final binding vote by Peaks Islanders, final word.

4) Patriot Publications in Brunswick sent to Mike were About Taxes and Untold History of America. We can get these at Mike’s house.

5) Mike got an e-mail from Tom Fortier conveying that he is committed to assisting and can get answers quicker; i.e., a “clearinghouse for the City” – steering committee, do we want this? Example: get number for sewage treatment plant from Tom, ask for back-up data. Have committee heads give questions to Tom, bring Tom’s answers back to us for discussion. If Tom gives us wrong information, he’s accountable. Begin with questioning figures on “yellow sheet” and ask for breakdown – federal, state, etc.? Cevia has. We don’t want manipulated data. It must be correct and accurate. Have people who give us info document it by source, page number, etc. It won’t matter who gave it to us because we’ll have the source. The City may manipulate data because it opposes secession = lose money. We need to know the budget for various city services and accounting. It’s public record. Anyone who e-mails the City or Tom should keep a copy and any answers or cc’s, and we can post them on the web site. Tom Fortier’s e-mail address is taf@portlandmaine.gov.

6) Treasurer’s Report by Judy Piawlock:
   $667.65 in savings
   $200 donation 7/21
   $160 spent on supplies

7) Petitions
   We have 400 registered voter signatures. Our goal is 600, 200+ seasonal.
Judy handed out pages with names of people who haven’t signed for committee members to get more signatures. Judy has to verify. 
Red = signed. Blue = dead or moved. Yellow = available.
Judy noted if someone refused to sign.

8) Russ got letter from Severin Beliveau, potential lobbyist – 2-year process, draft legislation, PR, will do necessary lobbying for $140,000 for the 2 years. Russ said we may be able to negotiate down and pare back his participation. What we definitely need for lobbying is $25,000 to $50,000. Beliveau has an excellent track record per Russ; proposes payment plan of $15,000 beginning next month, $25,000 each quarter in '06, and finish in '07, but probably gave the worst case scenario. Hourly fee should be $200-$250 per hour. Associate Ann Robinson should be lower. Beliveau’s fee could be $300 per hour. Lobbying fee usually flat rate per bill, Russ said. Mike and Russ will try to negotiate to half. The question was raised of grant money for lobbying – not sure. Will ask Jane.

9) Fundraising/Budget (only Budget present) Committee
Budget report distributed. Research is being done into cost of running other towns. 20 asked, 14 responded – synopsis being worked on. Some input given by those present re costs on IIC Budget Draft Sep. '05 – Jan. '07, may be lower. Discussion of Island Times – possible commitment to keep this in press at no charge. Discussion of meeting place – no charge from church. We could make donations over winter for heat. Discussion of using community room this winter. Inappropriate? No. Judy will ask Denise tomorrow.

10) Education Committee
Lowry – nothing new to add from last meeting. Ask Mike Langella or Lowry.
Department heads are on web site.

11) Public Works/Public Services
Cevia and Michelle have number for services for personnel, waiting for numbers for vehicles. City paying $500,000 for two men on at all times. County quoted $1,000,000 for two men on at all times. Original 8 full-time: $958,000. One full-time year-round, two summer – think will be $600,000. Doug asked how this relates to taxation. Cevia said if stay with City, within two years we’ll be paying $5,000,000 per year in taxes.

12) Russ: basis of all separations has been valuations of PI and Portland; e.g., if we’re 10% of Portland’s valuation, does PI have 10% worth or does Portland owe us money? Have to consider debt and liability. Example: new PI fire truck, where did money come from? Will have to identify assets of two territories. Example: we may not want Portland’s vehicles, fire truck, police cruisers.
13) Mike talked to Pat Christiansen of CBL – when Long seceded, not much changed. PI – couldn’t say whether things would change. Portland pays rent to CBL. We may want to pay rent to reduce ferry tickets. Garage probably wouldn’t change. George will ask questions re sewage treatment plan immediately. Discussion of Public Works employees losing their jobs and/or pensions if PI secedes and therefore opposing secession – we can’t guarantee that. Portland City Public Works employees use Maine State Retirement System. 12 Public Works employees have already signed petition. Art is working on missing land use codes. Discussion of working with Island Institute – Art has had some contact already.

14) Other Business
   a) MJ – we should have sample budget for people – many agreed.
   b) Discussion of form of government – Maine Municipal Association – Town Meeting, selectmen
   c) Trash pickup – we’ll do our own. Where does it go? George is looking into this. Discussion of Portland bringing trash to PI to store because there’s nowhere on the mainland to put it.
   d) Discussion of City now making it possible to get building permits on PI – soon?

Meeting concluded at 9:00 p.m.
ISLAND
INDEPENDENCE
COMMITTEE

NO MEETING JULY 14th

TABLE WILL BE SET UP FOR SIGNATURES ON PETITIONS THIS SAT. THE 16th IN FRONT OF STORE.

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY JULY 21st

7 PM. BRACKETT CHURCH

EVERYONE WELCOME
Attending meeting July 21st.

John Reauleck 2109  sprawlock@aol.com
Alice Rosol 0057
George Rosol 0059
Art. Asturita 3065
Jeff Robbins 9761
Ed Ezzard 2858
Elaine Ezzard 2856
Martha Callow 2725
Richard Callow

Dave Adams 2539
Howard Peolikin 0067
Mike Langelle 3067
Bill Freedman 5500
Alfred Kenworthy 2740
Barbara Kenworthy 3740
Fred Deshaw 2589
Pat Deshaw 2589
Betty Keller 3340
Mary Mayo 2831
Dana Leath 4404 712-64
Sharcan DePonte 0025
Bill Jones 2190
Mary Haeger 3376
Michael Richards 2478
Steve Nonni 5507
Cynthia Cole 5550
Island Independence Committee

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, July 21, 7 p.m:
Brackett Church

Everyone Welcome

Sign the
Petition for Self Governance
In front of Hannigans
Saturday, July 16th
IIC Steering Committee Meeting
Minutes of July 21, 2005

Attendees: (See attendance sheet for this date.)

Moderator, Michael Richards

Financial Report: Judy Piawlock reports balance of about $1,000.00.

Committee Reports: And interspersed comments.

Petition Progress. As of July 7, 383 registered voters signed. There were 200 part time resident signatures. To avoid duplicated effort, the remaining votes will be obtained door-to-door from lists to be supplied by Judy Piawlock.

Thermometer Progress. Status-of-vote-count thermometer is planned for a central down-front location. Howard Pedlikin will be contact person.

Comments: Reasons for “no” votes should be honored and given courteous consideration. Some naysayers believe we are incapable of self-governance. Others think we lack enough people to do the governing.

Island Fellow. Asked by Institute not to take sides in Independence move. Policy is do nothing unless asked. Help is ok in all areas with exception of petition gathering. Island Institute is important resource and should not be alienated. Art Astarita is the temporary liaison with Island Institute.

Will Gorham. As seen on TV. East End beach may not be available to Peaks. Also may lose the use of Ferry Terminal. Russ Edwards says all under purview of PUC and will be no problem. Transportation committee should look into alternatives if these threats materialize.

Waste Water Committee Report. A list of questions was drafted for submittal to PWD. Mostly about the cost of things like bond debt and treatment plant and maintenance. There is question whether grant money was available to help pay for Peaks treatment facility. Some probing into this is necessary.

Off-the-subject. Divisiveness issues must be addressed before city meeting. Sort of town meeting for pros and cons by pros and cons would be helpful to maintain harmony. Possible need for hiring municipal expert eventually. As for keeping current city jobs on Peaks, no promises should be made to that effect. As for problems with the IIC website, call Eric.
Education Committee. Mike Langella, presenter. Cost to run PI Elementary School last year was $400,000. More than $500,000 is projected for the next year. This includes part time teachers to Peaks plus unanticipated costs. There were 49 students on Peaks, 04-05 and 4 full time teachers and halftime principal and teacher. There were about 59 students sent to mainland last year. It will cost about $350,000 to $400,000 to send this many students to the mainland. The Peaks school building built in 1860, is old but re-evaluated for about $1M. Long Island, Maine school budget is $400,000. Comment: City couldn’t fund computers for Peaks.

Financial Committee. Howard Pedlikin, presenter. Fifteen small town reports are now available. The Portland Municipal Budget is in our hands. Russ Edwards will compile our budget once committees complete their estimates. It is estimated that Portland reaps a $1M profit from Peaks Island each year.

Land Use Committee. Art Astarita, presenter. There are 488 year round single family houses and 397 seasonal houses on Peaks. There are 6 condos, 17 two-family, and 2, 5 to 10 family dwellings on Peaks. There are 260 vacant lots. The total evaluation of Portland owned land and buildings on Peaks is $2.2M which is taxed for $57,680 per year.

Public Services Committee. Cevia Rosol, presenter. Received PWD financial report. Could not break out Peaks costs since it is combined with Portland’s. Questions to PWD about our costs have been prepared. LaMontagne of PFD could not supply detailed Peaks costs. Will need to talk to Joe Gray and other islands. Need to talk to House Island about their expectations for fire protection.

Fund Raising Committee. Mary Mayo, presenter. We need money to cover ordinary expenses. This committee will prepare budget. A letter should go out to all islanders for monetary support for funding the independence effort. This kind of thing may qualify for fund matching grant.

End of meeting

George Rosol
MINUTES OF MEETING  
AUGUST 18, 2005

1) Russ discussed a Founders Club and $25,000 for Severin Beliveau. $1,000 makes a donator a founder. We should limit this to 50 to 60 people. Mary Mayo with the fund-raising committee should take this on. Judy reported on Mike Richard’s impression of Severin after meeting with him – he would be excellent and worth the money. Question: if we go beyond 2 years (which Severin’s fee covers) do we have to pay more? We should expect this to take no longer than 2 years.

Mary Mayo suggested coming up with a budget with the fund-raising committee. Recognition is important for the founders of the Town of Peaks Island – cumulative. The target amount was $170,000, so we still need $80,000 over the 2-year period. The $80,000 should be the maximum amount needed. The fund-raising committee will move this to the front burner and come up with numbers with the finance committee.

2) Petition Drive – Judy is collecting signatures to update the sign down front. There was discussion of ways to reach people – send postcards and people can call if they want to sign? Lowry is inputting the voter registration list into a computer and should have this done in a couple of days. We may only need 50 to 60 more signatures. Signed petition pages should be given to Judy, who will get them to Lowry for inputting to the computer. A suggestion was made to have tables, one season and one year-round, in front of Hannigan’s Labor Day weekend. Many agreed. The last effort in front of Hannigan’s was very successful.

Consensus: Lowry should finish the computer work. We should have two tables this weekend (for those with kids in school who have to leave) and Labor Day weekend. We’ll meet again next week re this updated info. We can also have committee members ride boats heavily used to get signatures. Sunday, August 21st, we’ll have tables also. The heavily used boats would be the 7:15, 8:15 and 3:15, 4:30 and 5:35. Doug asked if Trefethen is on board with secession – the report is that Mike understands they are not against it. We can try at the Fifth Maine pancake breakfast also.

Judy collected all petitions that are completed. Mary Mayo said everyone she talked to was very positive – no negative feedback re secession. Art sent Judy an old taxpayer list to help check off seasonal residents.

3) Lowry – Education Committee: Mike is getting some stonewalling from some people. We should stick with Tom Fortier.
4) Suggestion of meeting more frequently – every week – but shorter meetings so we don't lose momentum.

5) **Communications Committee:** slow because Vanessa (?) just had her baby. Russ said the press has been contacting us and say our PR is good, TV stations also.

6) Discussion of a timetable to have all signatures. It was projected that we'll have what we need by Labor Day.

7) Discussion with Severin involved forming a non-profit corp. We have several attorneys on the island and we may be able to do this pro bono.

8) We have some numbers from Portland for taxable valuation on Portland and Peaks and non-taxable valuation for all causes, so they're shielding their assets. Art came up with an assessed value of Peaks assets. If we're 3-1/2 percent of Portland, that includes assets and debt. If Peaks assets don't equal 3-1/2 percent of Portland's valuation (tax-paying), Portland owes Peaks money or we can take it off the debt we owe Portland. Portland has over $1 billion in tax-exempt property.

9) Peaks Island Tax Assistance Committee has raised over $5,000 so far. 8/27 from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. they're sponsoring their first fund-raiser at Trefethen at $10 per person with music and food.

10) Doug asked if we secede, will Portland still maintain our roads? Russ says no.

11) Tuesday from 6:30-7:30, legislators will be on Peaks to talk about tax reform.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Note-Taker: Janis B. Price
ISLAND

7pm.

INDEPENDENCE

Committee

STEERING MEETING

THURSDAY JULY 7th

BRACKETT CHURCH

REPORT ON COLLECTING SIGNATURES ON THE 4th OF JULY!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME
AGENDA
ISLAND INDEPENDENCE COMMITTEE
Thursday July 7, 2005
Moderator- Mike Richards

1. Treasurers Report
2. Circulating Petitions.
3. Petition for non-residence
4. From the committees
5. Other business

Treasurers Report
15.00 Utitlities
194.75 Travel
10.49 Paper
24.68 Soccer
15.71 Misc, etc.

\$160.63
\$186.76
\$160.63
\$102.82
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Table set up at Hannigan's July 4th:

- **8-9 AM**: Mike Langella & Peggy Astarita
- **9-10 AM**: B & K Kenworthy & Marnie Sanford
- **10-11 AM**: D & C Rosol
- **11-12 AM**: D & M Callow
- **12-1 PM**: Cynthia Cole & Bill Jones
- **1-2 PM**: MJ Burnette & Linda Capone
- **2-3 PM**: MJ Burnette & Ellen Mahoney
Attending Meeting 7/7/05

Judy Pawlock 2109
jpawlock@AOL.com

Russ Edwards
Temporarily Off

M. Burrell
Mike Richards  5933
Art Abarita   2498
Alfred Kennard
Brendan Kennedy 2470
Edward Ezzard  2858
Richard Callow 2725
Martha Callow  2725
Michele Travers
Lenny Wyman 2778
Howard Peolikin 0067
Charles M. Burn 712-2133
Bob D.
Scott Richard
Bill Rees 2994
George Ross  005
Jeff Robbins 9761
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Island Independence Committee
Minutes of July 7, 2005 meeting

The Island Independence Committee met on July 7, 2005, at Bracket Memorial Church, attended by approximately 25 people and moderated by Mike Richards. Judy Pialock gave the Treasurer’s report indicating that she had more than $600 in the old Island Research Committee account. We decided that the money should be transferred to a new Island Independence Committee account and that it should be a joint account, with Mike Richards as the alternative signatory. Judy agreed to make this arrangement.

Jane Banquer, Chair of the Fund-raising Group, indicated that fund-raising should be directed at both individuals and foundations, and she suggested that we compile a list of likely contributors, as well as a budget and fact sheet for purposes of a mailing. Russ Edwards agreed to provide a draft budget for that purpose. We agreed that the letter requesting donations should be sent by August 1st, to give our summer residents enough time to contribute before leaving the Island.

Regarding the Petitions for Public Hearing, Judy indicated that on July 4th we obtained signatures of 166 registered voters and 92 summer residents, and that since then we have obtained several additional full sheets of signatures, several of which were turned in to Judy at the meeting. Judy related that someone apparently complained to Bob Hannigan about our signature table being set up in front of his store, but she then spoke to Bob, who gave his permission but asked that in the future we ask for permission before setting up a table, which we agreed to do. Judy also said that Linda Cohen, Clerk for the City of Portland, called her and suggested that she should not be collecting signatures on the petitions, because she was the warden for Peak Island. Judy indicated, however, that she saw no conflict of interest and did not intend to stop collecting signatures. Judy reported that Linda Cohen has advised her that the City is purging their list of Peak Island registered voters, but they must use their own process of sending cards to people
who have apparently not voted in the last several elections, and that Linda Cohen has declined to use the list of voters which Judy and Reta Morrill recently purged, eliminating over 200 people who have died or moved away. Finally, we decided to have another petition “drive,” on Saturday, July 23, which will give us time enough to post notices and maximize turn-out.

We discussed the need for a newsletter, similar to the Peaks Island Enterprise published during the last secession attempt, to keep Islanders informed of our progress. We also discussed the need to update the web-site. We agreed that this seemed to be within the purview of the Communications Committee, chaired by Vanessa Sylvester, but she will need some help accomplishing this, because she is about to have a baby. For now, we felt that her fellow Communications Committee members should be able to provide this assistance.

Russ Edwards was concerned that the advisory referendum required by the statute would fail unless more than 50% of the registered voters on Peaks Island voted in favor of secession. Mike Richards indicated that the statute required only a majority of those voting, not a majority of registered voters. After review of the statute, Russ agreed with this interpretation. Lowry Wyman suggested that, unless we obtained positive votes from more than 50% of the registered voters on Peaks Island, we should not go forward with secession. Mike Richards disagreed but pointed out that we can make this decision after the vote.

Mike Richards questioned the wording of the “Island Independence” fact sheet, as it indicated at the bottom that, after the secession bill was submitted to the Legislature, there would be a binding vote on independence by Peaks Islanders. Mike pointed out that the statute governing secession did not require this second vote, and that we had not discussed adding this requirement to our process. Russ felt strongly that we should indicate on the sheet that a final binding referendum will be held, that it is consistent with all prior secession legislation, and that it would be more palatable for both Peaks Islanders and the Legislature if we indicated that final binding referendum would be held. We agreed to leave that
paragraph as is, but we changed the prior paragraph from "a bill may be
submitted" to "a bill will be submitted," and to delete the word "registered" from
paragraph six.

We agreed to meet again on the third Thursday of the month, July 21st.
Hereafter, we will try to meet on our regularly-scheduled first and third Thursdays
of each month, so that people can plan accordingly if they want to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Richards
ISLAND INDEPENDENCE COMMITTEE MEETING - THURSDAY JUNE 30th BRACKETT CHURCH

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO CIRCULATE PETITIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REQUESTING A PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS INDEPENDENCE WITH PORTLAND

EVERYONE IS WELCOME
AGENDA

ISLAND INDEPENDENCE COMMITTEE

Thursday June 30, 2005

Moderator- Mike Richards

1. Treasurers Report
2. Circulating Petitions.
3. Petition for non-residence
4. From the committees
5. Other business
Attending 6/30/05

Judy Lawlick 766-2109 ✓
Cecil Royal 0057
George Royal
Linda Capone-Newton 766-5024 ✓
Mary + Dave Haeger 766-3376

✓ Mary Avila 766-4234
✓ Kent + Baden - kimmy
Michael Linares
Steve Nunn
Pan Tedford

✓ Richard Callow
Martha Callow
Mike Langella
Cynthia Cole
Ann H. Bates
Bill Jones

Mary McVane

Janis B. Price
Michel Tanès
Rus Edwards
Nick Lee Castaneda

✓ Howard Redlich

Dorothy Wyman
Hartl Wendel

Jeff + Michelle Travers - need package -
Island Independence

By signing this petition you will be supporting the beginning of the independence movement for Peaks Island. Secession is a lengthy process involving many steps:

**Facts about the Petition Process**

- The independence process begins with a petition signed by more than 50% of registered voters on Peaks Island.
- A successful effort will result in a public hearing before the Portland City Council.
- At the public hearing a written report will be presented by the petitioners.
- Non-resident property owners may participate in the public hearing process.
- The Portland City Council must conduct an advisory referendum on Peaks Island within 30-120 days after the public hearing is conducted.
- If more than 50% of the registered Peaks voters favor secession and a majority of the municipal officers approve, the secession request will be submitted to the Maine Legislature for their approval.
- If the vote of the Portland City Council and the Peaks independence vote results are in conflict than the two parties go to mediation.
- If all issues can not be resolved within 6 months after the beginning of discussions, a bill may be submitted accompanied by a comprehensive report to the legislature for action.
- A binding vote on independence by Peaks Islanders will be held after approval by the legislature, resolution of the monetary issues, and all the facts are known.

If you would like to be involved or have any questions or concerns, please call

Mike Richards 766-2498
Judy Piawlock 766-2109

7/1/05
Basic Questions and Answers About Independence

What does it mean to secede?
Secession means that Peaks Island would legally separate from the city of Portland and become our own town. Our local government would be structured very much like hundreds of others of small towns throughout the state of Maine. We would elect a local government, set our own tax structure and vote on our own budget. We would provide our own services or contract them out with another town or private company.

What about taxes? Can we afford it?
The city has said that services they provide to the island cost roughly the same as the amount of taxes that Peaks pays. We could argue that those numbers are inflated and we actually pay more taxes into the city. For now, we can work under the assumption that Peaks Island’s current property tax of $2,960,748 is the same amount the city pays out for services to the island. However, in August our property taxes will increase to $4,166,910, and again in March to $4,840,000 (that’s if they don’t raise the mill rate again!). So we are looking at a total increase of $1,880,252 per year in tax we islanders will pay to the city. With independence, this money would be our surplus. Instead of going to the city, we would decide how to spend it. There will probably be some extra costs in the beginning, including “buying back” equipment from the city, but the rest of the money we could use for lowering taxes! As we are going through this process, we are committed to no reduction of services.

What will happen to the school?
As the town of Peaks Island, we will maintain and make all decisions regarding our island school. We would continue to send our middle and high school students to the mainland with expanded choices of schools, using tuition payments which are set by the state. In the future, we could also expand the island school, if we chose to do so.

What about city employees who live and work on the island?
It is important that those of us who are employed by the city on this island retain our jobs with all current wages and benefits honored. As we’ve seen from the city’s own numbers, our current taxes cover our services. Independence is about making things better and more secure for all islanders -- especially those who care for our island, our children, and our community. Also, the city of Portland has not always been the best employer. Several times teachers and other city workers have worked without contracts, and their benefits have been reduced. The city could also reduce services to the island and we would have no effective recourse.

How do we achieve Independence?
There is legislation that allows Peaks Island the right to secede from the City of Portland. It is a lengthy process that begins with a majority of island registered voters signing a petition asking for a hearing with Portland city council. After the hearing, the council will set a vote on the island in which we will vote either to separate or not. If a majority on Peaks wants separation, the council will then vote whether or not to respect our
wishes. If our wishes are in conflict, the city and the island must go through mediation to see if our problems can be resolved. Ultimately, we must go to the state legislature for a vote on our proposal for self-governance. It is a long process that will involve work and thoughtfulness, but it is certainly possible. We will have copies of the legislation governing secession available at our meetings.

What does the Petition mean?
The petition is the legal first step of the process for independence. If a majority of islanders sign the petition, the Portland City Council must hold a public hearing to discuss our request for independence and the reasons behind it. The law requires five representatives to be listed on the petitions to speak with the city during the process. These folk were elected by Peaks Islanders to appear on the petition. In no way is this list exclusive. We need many more people to speak up and be involved with the independence process.

Are other islands included?
We understand that Chebeague and Little Diamond islands are also considering separation. We are not petitioning together with those islands as one territory because of the legal and logistical problems that presents. So far, we have all been supporting each other and perhaps we can coordinate together for a greater impact. Pumpkin Knob. Catnip Island and House Island have been included on our petition because those islands are close to Peaks Island and their populations are small.

How can I get more information or get more involved?
We have General Meetings the third Thursday of every month, at 7 p.m. at the Brackett Memorial Church. We encourage everyone to come! It is a time to ask and answer questions, discuss concerns and be updated on the process. From time to time we will have special meetings, for which we will post notices around the island. There is also group of us called the steering committee that has been doing the research and work for independence. The steering committee meets the first and third Thursdays of each month and is open to all islanders who want to be part of working for independence. If you are interested in helping out, please come, or call Judy Piawlock at 766-2109 for more information. We share a website with islanders working on tax reform. and relief to help those victims of our new taxes. at www.selfdeterminationfor.us.

What if don’t live here year round – can I still help out?
Definitely! We are also circulating a petition for seasonal residents to sign and show support. We will also be circulating a petition of support for Portland residents on the mainland. If you are interested, please come to our general meetings every third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Brackett Church. or call Vanessa Sylvester at 766-5758.

INDEPENDENCE INFORMATIONAL AND UPDATE MEETINGS
3rd Thursday of every month, 7 p.m.
Bracket Street Church
NEW LAW GOVERNING SECESSION

After Peaks Island’s last secession attempt, the Maine legislature enacted a new statute which provides the legal framework for residents of any territory to secede from a city. Although the law recognizes that Maine citizens have the “unalienable and indefeasible right to institute government and to alter, reform or totally change the same when their safety and happiness requires it,” the Legislature wanted to ensure that the rights of all citizens were protected and that any change in local government was made cautiously and methodically. Therefore, the new law requires seven steps: (1) the Island’s petition for a public hearing with the City; (2) the public hearing itself; (3) an advisory referendum on the Island and in the City; (4) a City Council vote; (5) a meeting between the Island and City, mediated if necessary; (6) a legislative proposal for secession and self-government; and (7) a vote of the Maine Legislature.

(1) The first step is for the Island to present to the City a petition signed by more than 50% of the registered voters of the Island, asking the City to hold a public hearing to discuss (a) whether the Island should secede from the City, (b) the problems that have led to this request, (c) potential solutions other than secession, and (d) the potential impact of secession on the Island and the City, especially regarding property taxes.

(2) After the City registrar verifies the signatures on the petition, the City must then advertise and hold the public hearing, conducted by a moderator, at which those initiating the petition must make a formal presentation of the problems that have led to this secession effort. City residents, Island residents, and even nonresidents may all participate in the public hearing.

(3) After the hearing, unless the Island secession leaders formally decide not to go forward with the secession effort, the City must hold an advisory referendum on the Island within four months after the hearing, asking the voters whether they “favor secession” of the Island from the City. Although it is not required, the City can hold a separate referendum asking City residents the same question.

(4) After the referendum, the City Council must vote on whether to support the Island’s secession request. If both the City Counsel and the Island vote in favor of secession, the Island can submit legislation requesting secession to the Legislature.

(5) If the Island votes for secession but the City Counsel votes against it, the Island and City must meet together to try to resolve the issues, before going to the Legislature. If they are unable to resolve the issues by themselves, the Island and City must use a mediator, who must submit a report to the Legislature.
(6) The Island must then provide the Legislature with a report regarding their proposal for secession, including information on:

(a) their attempts to resolve the concerns leading to the secession proposal;
(b) the effective date of secession;
(c) the Island’s plans for student education and transportation;
(d) the distribution of assets and liabilities between the Island and City;
(e) the Island’s population;
(f) the Island’s land area and features;
(g) the Island’s development and transportation issues;
(h) the Island’s land use control;
(i) the Island’s water, sewer, fire, police, street, and other services;
(j) the Island’s pollution problems and controls;
(k) the Island’s and City’s financial data;
(l) the effect of the Island’s secession on the City’s schools;
(m) the ability of the Island to deliver services and govern itself; and
(n) the support or opposition of people on the Island and in the City for the Island’s secession and self-government.

(7) After considering all of this information, the Legislature will decide whether to allow Peaks Island to secede from the City of Portland and govern itself.

If the Legislature allows Peaks Island to secede, the Island and City will meet as needed to resolve any remaining issues, using a mediator if necessary. The Island will then assume control of the City services on the Island and operate similar to other small towns in Maine, establishing a School Board and Planning Board, and holding annual town meetings to discuss spending priorities, create a budget, and set a tax rate accordingly.
LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR SECESSION AND SELF-GOVERNANCE

To our fellow summer residents and others who own property on Peaks Island, but who are not voting residents of Portland:

As you probably know, the City of Portland has recently completed a re-evaluation of all residential properties in the city, including those on Peaks Island. Property values have increased dramatically, especially for those properties deemed to have a view of the water. This will trigger dramatic increases in property taxes on property that was already burdened with high taxes. Many summer residents already pay higher taxes on their modest Peaks Island cottages than they do on their permanent residences that are worth two or three times as much. Although some property owners have succeeded in appealing their assessments, the property tax reductions that were granted by the city were quite modest.

Although the city leaders have held several hearings on the reassessments, their response has generally been dismissive of the legitimate complaints of property owners. In fact, their public statements seem to indicate that they view summer residents, and those on Peaks Island in particular, as wealthy, vote-less outsiders who can always sell out to someone wealthier if they can’t afford the tax burden. Peaks has become a cash cow for the city as a whole. This attitude is particularly unjustified when one considers that city services on Peaks have always been very limited and generally rather poor, and that summer residents use very few of the city services that their property taxes support, such as schools, snow plowing, social services, etc.

Many of the summer cottages on Peaks have been owned by the same families for generations – as you would expect, these families have strong emotional ties to the island, their property, and their neighbors. The 300% or 400% increases in property taxes will also hit very hard on the Island’s year-round residents, many of whom will simply find the new property taxes unaffordable and will be forced to move. The scheduled property tax increases will change Peaks from a modest fishing/recreational “village” to the “Hamptons of Maine” at the expense of those who own property on the island but cannot afford to stay. No one wants an island composed solely of the super-rich living in million-dollar cottages.

This is nothing short of taxation without representation, the rallying cry of the both the American Revolution and Maine’s later secession from Massachusetts. The residents and property owners of Peaks Island must be able to determine their own priorities – self-determination is one of the basic tenets of both the US Constitution and New England local governance.

An effort is now underway to investigate secession from the City of Portland. Nine working groups composed of Island residents have been established and
are diligently working to identify barriers, estimate both the costs and the benefits, and prepare the first draft of a possible plan of action. The whole process is expected to take about two years. As you may know, Long Island seceded from Portland in 1993, and experience has shown this to be a very wise action by its residents. Taxes were reduced at the same time that services were improved, lending some credence to the “cash cow” thesis.

Please celebrate Independence Day 2005 by supporting self-determination on Peaks Island. You may not be able to vote in Portland, but your support is still important. First, stay informed on the issue and new developments. Talk to your neighbors, read the articles in the Island Times, and click on www.selfdeterminationfor.us. Second, attend our meetings (watch for flyers posted at the Peaks Café and elsewhere), circulate petitions, and support us in any other way you can. You probably have a talent that we can use. Summer residents may not be able to vote in city elections, but they can still have a voice on this matter by signing petitions and lending us their support. We have the high ground on this issue – let’s use it!

Sincerely,

Skip Lackie
Barbara Kenworthy
MINUTES OF MEETING
JUNE 30, 2005

Opening: Mike Richards said the Press-Herald called him today asking if he's the head of the secession movement and he said no, he's the ear. Press Herald asked Mike what city of Portland has put into Peaks. If it's true that over the last 10-20 years we've paid more than we've received, it's our money. There should be an accounting of who owes what to whom. Judge Vincent McCusick (sp?) didn't agree we'd already paid. They made Long pay again – took them 6 years. Mike had reviewed the "book" again for the call from the Press-Herald.

Registered voter info was distributed (by Michelle Tranes and Russ?)

Mike acknowledged receipt of the minutes from Janis.

MONEY

Treasurer's Report – per Judy

$667 plus – accumulated some interest since ’93, the last effort
• She listed what has been spent so far, $15 for a copy of the voter registration list, $10 for paper, pens, markers, etc., concluding with a figure of $144.82
• No new funds have been accumulated for the new effort

Russ:
• had requested donations in the "book".
• We need $60,000 for a lobbyist. What we don't need goes to the town. We'll need money. An attorney suggested an expert who will help with imprimatur and budget, outline how to proceed vs. a CPA – a question raised by Cevia.
• Whether or not we pay for school, trucks, etc. depends on if we already own them. History is the legislature puts two entities together and says, "Work it out."
• Russ doesn't think they have the right to do that and should assess a fair settlement – we’ll make that argument or at least do our best.
• Long could have taken this to court but were so happy to be out – now their taxes are half of ours.

Mike:
• Anticipates much more expenses this time for a professional lobbyist – alert Jane
• Mentioned fundraiser at the Inn by the children's group as an idea
• Jane is working on a goal – will get from department heads what we need
• Said last time per expert was not only financially doable but easily – sewer was just installed
• Charles Lotton (sp?) was recommended – writes on economics for Press-Herald. We need someone with independent financial expertise.
• To question from Cynthia, “Would budget include purchasing school?”, Mike answered no, it’s about purchasing city property and how, running a town

Judy mentioned Founders Club of $1,000 to get started –

**PETITIONS**

• **Mike** has 50 copies for Portland voters to sign – letter done for seasonal homeowners
• **Mike** made only slight changes to Vanessa’s FAQ sheet because it was well done, and read it per request.
• **Mike** – Chuck Radis said 100 years ago there was a secession meeting at Trefethen because of taxes, so this isn’t new.
• There was more discussion of getting the correct numbers of residents – 853 year-round and 1,016 seasonal were mentioned
• **Mike** said the petition gets us a hearing with the City of Portland on:
  1) whether Peaks should secede
  2) the reasons that led Peaks to the request to secede
• We have to have at least 50% of the registered voters’ signatures.
• Portland’s number of registered voters is 1,063 – could be incorrect because some may have died or moved away. Judy has 823 (?) – a number close to 200 people less.
• Russ – if petition only gets us a hearing, can’t we just say that’s why we want people to sign?
• **Mike** – last hearing with city was to address taxes, this is to address secession. We must present a written report of the problems that have existed. There will be a moderator at the meeting, a mediator later. We must make a formal presentation of the problems and potential solutions other than secession and its impact – written report of the impact of taxes on the secession territory. The hearing will be not sooner than 30 days nor more than 120 days after we submit the petition.
• Questions to ask: 1) are you a registered voter? 2) have you already signed? 3) are you a seasonal homeowner?
• **Mike** – Peaks has 60% seasonal homeowners that are not registered voters, which equals a majority. They should have a say nonetheless. We need at least 50%. 60% would be better, and 80% would be even better. We should have a stack of FAQs for people to take home at the petition signing.
• There was general consensus and agreement that we need to be consistent and accurate when answering questions about secession, especially in the petition-signing process. If people ask, “Will my taxes go up or down?”, we
should say “We don’t know. That’s why we’re doing this.” Another message should be: This is the first step. It will take 1-2 years to resolve.

- **George** questioned whether the petition signatures should be dated. Some felt this was important. Others didn’t. It was mentioned that the law says within 30 days the registrar has to verify signatures and that that will be dated.
- **Mike** – if the info sheet needs to be changed, he wants to defer to Vanessa because she wrote it.
- **Russ** – at the time of the petition there was a $1 difference with Portland so some people said, why bother? 6 years later, their taxes are half. Long’s mil rate has gone down. The valuation for Portland, Peaks and Long was the same. Peaks is 26, Long is 20, but the taxes collected on Long are half. If Russ is asked, “Will secession lower our taxes?”, he will answer 1) Long pays half. 2) Portland says they’re collecting and spending $3 million. What are they doing with the extra $2 million they’re collecting? I don’t know. Based on that, we’re asking for a hearing.
- **Barbara** – people should know by signing they’re not voting, this is just a first step.
- **George** responded – we shouldn’t downplay their signing, this IS the first step.
- **Mike** – don’t discourage people who want to secede, but if they don’t, ask them, “Why send Portland $1 million to $2 million?”
- **Cynthia** – tell people this process will give us info

**PETITION DETAILS and CONCLUSION**

- **George** – people are more apt to sign a not-blank sheet, so get some signed and then get doubters.
- We’ll have two petitions, one for seasonal and one for year-round residents, and a Q&A or FAQ sheet; 50 total sheets w/14 to 15 lines per sheet.
- **Cevia** – if anyone needs more, ask Judy.
- **Mike** – has a letter from Barbara and Skip Lackey (sp?) in favor of secession to other seasonal residents. We can even tell hesitant people not to sign, and they’ll be dying to sign. Use sales techniques.
- **Mike** will e-mail seasonal petition to Russ. Ralph Ashmore offered their copier. Russ will get it copied and give them to Judy, who will be the repository of the petitions.
- **Mike** will send the FAQ and legislative act to Langella with the 5-6 steps in the process: petition, hearing, arbitration, legislature, etc.
- A meeting was proposed at 374 Island Ave. for Friday at 3:30 to try to start the petition signing process on Saturday instead of July 4th.
- A table in front of Hannigan’s was proposed or by the sandwich boards in front of the candy store or by the waiting shed at the circle on Welch Street.
- **Peg Astarita** offered a table and chairs, to be returned when finished.
- A sign-up sheet was circulated for volunteers to man the table as follows:
  1) 8:00 to 9:00 – Peg and Langella
  2) 9:00 to 10:00 – Barbara Kenworthy and Mary Ann Sanford
  3) 10:00 to 11:00 – Cevia and George Rosol
4) 11:00 to 12:00 – Dick and Martha Callow (2725)
5) 12:00 to 1:00 – Cynthia Cole and Bill Jones

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Russ
- Last time using Spieling (sp?) census – no good – real figures by U.S. government shows different number of residents
- $41,250 median income – city of Portland was $5,000 to $6,000 less than Peaks. It has reversed itself in the last 10 years. This is year-round residents, not voters.
- Lowry – in favor of a lower number rather than higher because the school enrollment is diminishing. We should have '05 data, not '00. She stressed the importance of accurate data and ways we could get that, including going door to door on Peaks. There was vigorous debate over this, ending with the conclusion that the numbers Judy, Russ, Michelle and others have are the best way to go.
- Judy – she and Reta have been purging list for 10 years of working on elections. There are duplications, omissions, etc.

CONCLUSION
- Mike – new petition will say this is our best estimate. We can’t change the petition after we put the number down. We have to have at least 50% of registered voters, which would equal 600 signatures. Going by Portland’s numbers, 50% would equal 700 signatures.
- Michelle asked if we’re changing the petition again, and Mike said yes. He gave a number of 925 plus 2 from House, and that Cushing is not with us. Russ gave a number of 638 times 2.13 = 1,349, the presumption being those are summer residents.
- Judy will keep minutes of meetings.
- Janis will scan in May 10th minutes and e-mail to Mike, and bring the hard copy of those to the July 14th meeting as she will be out of town the week of July 7th.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting 7:00 p.m. July 7, 2005.

Janis B. Price, Recorder
ISLAND INDEPENDENCE COMMITTEE STEERING GROUP MEETING THURSDAY JUNE 23 AT 7PM. BRACKETT CHURCH EVERYONE WELCOME
AGENDA

ISLAND INDEPENDENCE COMMITTEE

Thursday June 23, 2005

Moderator- Mike Richards

1. Selection of a secretary to:
   a. take and transcribe notes
   b. summarize same and post on web site

2. Petition for non-residents

3. Circulating Petitions.

4. From the committees

5. Other business
Attending Meeting 6/23/05

Judy Hawthorne 766-2109
Barbara & Ken Kenworthy 766-2748
Linda Capone-Newton 766-5034
David Adams
Edward Ezzard 766 - 2858
Elaine Ezzard 766 - 2858
Thomas J. Quinn 766-2401
Elaine Quinn 766 - 2401
Michele Tranes 766 - 3014
Lois Wyman 766 - 2778
Jaccie B. Price 766 - 0051
Mike Richards 766-2498
Bugs Edwards
Chuck Tedford 766-3500
Cyrus Rosol 766-4448
George Rosol 766-0057
Vanessa Sylvestra
Fred Clark
Helen Clark 766-5678
Petition for Public Hearing

We, the undersigned registered voters of Portland, Maine, and located within Peaks Island, Maine, wish to decide whether to secede from the City of Portland in order to have financial independence and determine for ourselves all issues of importance to our community. Therefore, we are requesting a public hearing to discuss whether Peaks Island should secede from the City of Portland.

For the purposes of this Petition, Peaks Island includes all of Peaks Island, House Island, Pumpkin Knob, and Catnip Island, and surrounding waters. The resident population of Peaks Island is 83, the non-resident population of Peaks Island is 270, and the representatives serving Peaks Island regarding this Petition are Mike Richards, Judy Piawlock, Eunice Curran, Charles Radis, and Vanessa Sylvester.

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The above signatures were collected and witnessed by:

Name: ___________________ Signature: ___________________

Address: ___________________ Phone: ___________________
Support for Petition for Public Hearing

We, the undersigned seasonal homeowners of Peaks Island, Maine, support the wish of the registered voters of Peaks Island to decide whether to secede from the City of Portland in order to have financial independence and to determine for themselves all issues of importance to our mutual island community. Therefore, we support their request for a public hearing to discuss whether Peaks Island, House Island, Pumpkin Knob, Catnip Island, and their surrounding waters, should secede from the City of Portland.

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The above signatures were collected and witnessed by:

Name: __________________________ Signature: __________________________

Address: _________________________ Phone: __________________________

Dated: __________________________
MINUTES OF MEETING
JUNE 23, 2005

Per Mike Richards:

- U.S. Supreme Court decided municipalities can be taken to get more taxable income; i.e. City of Portland.
- #1 GOAL to prevent the above: Convince ourselves and Peaks Island this is the right thing to do; i.e. petitions (communications group). We tried to submit a bill for a binding referendum, and the legislature opposed the bill. The City was in favor of our right to vote. The legislature wanted to wait till we got a bill. Delay = the government wants our money and doesn't care what they're doing to us.
- Cheryl Lieman said, "To hell with Peaks Island."
- Jill Duson said, "If we can't afford the taxes, we should move."
- The City of Portland is using tax money for Portland's use, not Peaks Island's.

When we hand out petitions, we need to be able to answer questions.

There was some discussion among Judy Piawlock, Russ Edwards and Vanessa about the correct number of our population. Russ said it was 853 per the 2000 census. Judy said it was 821 per Linda Cohen, her boss. The 853 is year-round and 1,016 is seasonal residents. 600 plus is our largest voter turn-out. Judy, Vanessa and Reta Morrill will go to the City to get an accurate number of registered voters.

Lowry mentioned the school board agenda posting. Following that was a discussion of the need to have the notes of our meetings on our web site with the 5 representatives. They should be typed and reviewed, and we decide what to post on the web site to give to Eric. There will be two separate folders: Steering Committee and Public Access.

Judy will keep paper copies of all documents. Russ Edwards did the first notebook.

Per Mike Richards: "We're getting ready for trial", both paper and electronic.
- We should get non-residents involved also because they feel just as strongly as we do re Peaks Island, and make up the majority of the summer population and money. We don't want to imply that high taxes and prices on homes are their fault.
- We should do a posting on the bulletin board that it's the high taxes and not high prices that are the problem.
- The petition should be the same for residents and non-residents, and suggested getting five non-resident representatives.
Per George:
- There was general discussion of the term non-residents or summer residents following George’s suggestion of not calling them “non” something, which could imply something negative, but “seasonal residents”, “seasonal taxpayers”. There was general agreement on this. The following suggestions ensued:

Per Vanessa:
- We should have a support petition and specific meeting in July for the summer people. We should have an open letter from fellow summer residents that people could sign.

Per Lowry:
- There are registered voters who are summer residents and friends of Peaks Island. We should be inclusive and say, “We need your involvement and people who will lend their voice. We have two documents for that purpose and/or here’s who to call”. We should be proactive on offsetting the negative by being positive. This should be celebratory.

Per Barbara Kenworthy:
- People in Portland think summer people (non-residents) are uncommitted. That’s not true. She’s a fifth-generation Peaks Islander.

The discussion moved from how to include seasonal residents in our effort to validating the signatures we get and making sure we’re accurate.

Per Ezzard:
- Taxpayers (year-round or seasonal) will have more impact on the city.

Per Lowry:
- Re voters vs. taxpayers, we MUST have registered voters. They can indicate next to their name if they are also a taxpayer.
- Mike’s comment: have two petitions, one for a registered voter on Peaks, one for a taxpayer on Peaks, seasonal or year-round.

Barbara Kenworthy (2740) and Mike will collaborate on a letter/petition.

Next was a discussion of mechanics and accuracy on getting the petitions signed, making sure we don’t duplicate or people don’t just defer by saying “I’ve already signed.” Judy has lists. The petitions will be turned over to Judy on a regular basis for comparison against the voter list to see who we still need to talk to. There was a suggestion of putting something in the Island Times.

Per Mike:
- 15 signatures times 50 pages filled is what we need
- We should post notices on the island re what we’re doing so they’ll know
what’s coming.

- We need to adopt the correct numbers on our document and have Vanessa document how she got her numbers, even like an affidavit.
- We’ll revise the petitions and put the correct numbers, providing for seasonal residents. We’ll need: clipboards, pens, a cover sheet with a summary of what the petition will do, and to make sure we get the legal registered voter name on the petitions. There was discussion of needing around 50 pens.
- The petitions should be signed in blue ink if possible so we’ll know it’s original.
- We could put up a sample petition with a blue strike-through on it on the bulletin board so people can read and consider it before they’re confronted with signing it.

Per Lowry:

- She will submit her questions and answers to Lowry for review and maybe Mike.
- She’ll get her numbers from two sources so Fortier can’t disagree with them.
- She’ll try to publish where we are and have a kick-off goal of August, when the tax bills come. We should have the petitions by then.

Petitions are to be printed and at the next meeting. People will take what they think they can do.

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Committee Reports

Russ – Committee Report on Finance

1. Established what income will be from property taxes analyzing similar towns – dog tags, etc.
2. Will set up budget committee in a month – compile cost of running town vs. money coming in
   - Take valuations vs. money coming in
   - Need total valuations on all secession property
   - Have number for what city is providing, cost?
   - Want to analyze fees, where money is going, trash bags, etc., social services, school, sewer

Public Works

- Mike talked re Portland Water District, wants to keep form
- George will talk to Art re sewer, take care of contact in town
- Russ – form to get public info, Lynne Richard offered to help George and Art with form
Lowry – Education Committee
1. Michael Langella, co-chair, former math teacher and assistant principal who is familiar with schools and budget is analyzing current and next year’s budget. He will project the budget for the next two years calculating enrollments for 5 years, 2 back, 3 forward.
2. Cynthia Cole is helping with transportation and other costs. In 2 weeks, she will give this to the steering committee.
3. Mike asked if they will calculate secession’s impact on Portland Public Schools, and Lowry said it will be mostly money. Mike asked because if Portland claims the majority of the tax goes to schools, we want to prove that’s untrue. Only one-third of taxes may go to schools. The city will say that secession will ruin the city budget for the schools.
4. They will try not to alter staffing
5. Mike asked about the transfer of pensions of the city of Portland teachers to the Town of Peaks Island, including No Child Left Behind, etc.
6. The Portland High students were discussed and the city losing money from not having the Peaks students
7. Vanessa offered figures to Lowry that parents have done and will get those to Cynthia.
8. Cevia said things will stay the same with no reduction in services. Mike agreed.

Cevia – Police Committee
1. Police info is on the way. Portland is helping, but slow.
2. Betty Heller submitted a list of questions to the fire chief, who answered $650,000 for a fire boat.
3. They are attempting to analyze figures for Portland only. The Fortier letter or fire chief includes other islands.
4. They’re working on social services, children’s workshop and senior services
5. Library – Roseann said no. Kathie will talk to Shelby
6. Cevia gave the budget from the last effort with list of sources, etc.
7. Cevia has the Long Island annual report. LI will sell us one for $5
8. Russ said we can’t use that because of the disparity in the numbers between Peaks and Long – have other town reports (10) that are comparable
9. Joe Galouli is inventorying equipment, and told George about a pile of compost on Peaks that Portland shipped over because they have nowhere to put it

Vanessa – Communications Committee
1. Paul Anderson agreed to do a computer list (Judy’s) and input stuff on voters and we can sort it that way (Excel)
2. Discussed petition for mainlanders supporting us. Should we wait till we have a majority here? Then we can say to the legislature that we have Munjoy Hill, etc.
3. Discussed small business, public works and school – have meetings because they’re city employees
4. Have someone (Pam) working on an editorial for the Press-Herald. Mike commented we should respond to the editorial in the Press-Herald that the city's view is all but irrelevant. What's relevant is what Peaks wants and make it look so reasonable that Portland will look foolish if they oppose us. Portland pays $60,000 for the ferry.

5. Edward Mahoney (?) and Howard Halligan (?) going to the editorial board meeting – mix sovereignty with personal stories – meeting in July

6. Pointed out the positive approach instead of the negative. A comment was made that anger gets us to a place where we can act. Russ said the city won't listen to us.

7. They'll meet twice a month. One of them, the first hour will be just informational for people who have questions. It will be called an update meeting, which will be put on the flier, the third Thursday of each month. Call for fliers or press, Eric Heaton If Vanessa's not available.

Next meeting June 30th at 7:00 p.m.

Janis B. Price, Recorder
ISLAND INDEPENDENCE COMMITTEE
THURSDAY JUNE 16th
BRACKETT CHURCH
IMPORTANT OPEN MEETING
TO SELECT THE 5 PEOPLE REQUIRED BY LAW TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CITY ABOUT OUR BID FOR INDEPENDENCE!
NOMINATIONS ARE SOLICITED.
At the attending meeting on 6-10-05:

- Glenen Roberts
- Claudia Whitman
- Vanessa Sylvester
- W. Burnett
- Bob Dome
- Linda Capone-Newton
- Cynthia Cole
- Lowry Wyman
- Mike Largella
- Ross Edwards
- Dorothy Cady
- Nancy L. and
- David Adams
- Howard Reddlin 4494
- Donald Steere
- Gretchen Steere
- Georgette Rosso
- Mary Mayo
- Lynn Hard
- Charles M. Burr
- Beth Child
- Tony Cecilia Rost
- Al Tunes
- Jeff Robbins
- Mike Richards
- Judy Rawlock

Phone numbers:
- 766-3161
- 766-2418
- 746-5758
- 5933
- 2643
- 5024
- 5550
- 2778
- 3067
- 5569
- 2937
- 2437
- 2833
- 2984
- 712-2133
- 2431
- 0057
- 3017
MINUTES OF MEETING
JUNE 16, 2005

• Trying to choose names for petition
• We've identified territory (Peaks, Pumpkin, Catnip & House)
• Remaining numbers: resident and non-resident populations
• People should be well known, not likely to drive others away
• Decided the names shouldn't be appointed in committee, but in a small-scale election
• Committee Nominations:
  Eunice Curran – fourth generation, born here
  Judy Piawlock – 18 years on island
  Vanessa Sylvester – 2 years on island
  Chuck Radis – doesn't want to attend many meetings (15+ years?)
  Mike Richards – 18 years on island
  Reta Morrill – added by Mike
  Dave Parker – withdrawn

• Do they all whole-heartedly support secession?
• Mike isn't sure if he does yet, needs more info and data. He does believe we can and should secede, especially so we can govern ourselves and make our own decisions
• Representatives are just that - they'll have to run the City's offer by the community before they decide whether we want to go on after the hearing, SO they have the power to vote "yes" or "no" to go on, but they MUST represent the community.
• Do they represent the island or the secession movement?
  Secession movement - so we know they'll follow this all the way through Island - so we'll be better than Portland and will listen to the whole community
• We all want to do what's best for the island, so that should be a comfort
• Names on petition won't be the representatives during negotiation (Are we absolutely sure of this?)
• We can hold votes during the process to address where the community opinion lies
• Floor opened for other nominations
  Are these names recognizable?
  Can these people (or others) address the fears of those threatened by secession? Vanessa is committed to address fears, set up meetings with city workers, school, etc.
• Nominations closed, committee selected of five
• In general city still doesn't support this effort, doesn't take it seriously, and generally, the legislature doesn't like Portland, so that may work in our favor.
• Other news: Art Astarita is looking into the water district sewer situation
ISLAND INDEPENDENCE COMMITTEE

STEERING GROUP MEMBERS MEETING
THURSDAY 9th OF JUNE — 7 pm. BRACKETT CHURCH

EVERYONE WELCOME
AGENDA

ISLAND INDEPENDENCE COMMITTEE

Thursday June 9, 2005

Moderator- Mike Richards

1. Meeting with Sevrin Beliveau Monday June 6
2. Diamond Island
3. Selection of negotiators
5. From the committees
6. Other business
MINUTES OF MEETING
JUNE 9, 2005

Steering Committee

1. Coordination with tax committee – Charles Enders
   Tax meets 2nd Tuesday of month, 7:00 p.m.
   “Comm. Action Committee”
2. Janice will serve as secretary.
3. Rep for steering committee
4. Lobbyists interested in taking on – need more info
5. Meeting in July on various ways to reduce taxes
6. PITA – Peaks Island Tax Asso.
7. Proposal 10 days
8. Diamond Island w/go on own
9. Selection of negotiators

   Possible Reps – (need to be elected)

   Mike Richard
   Judy Piawlock
   Unice Kern
   David Parkes
   Charles Radis
   Reta Morrill
   David Norton
   Dennis Rockwell
   Nancy Wright

12. Call a meeting – present names – have a vote for 5 reps.
13. Process should be made public so people understand what it is about
14. Next meeting choose 5 reps.
15. Circulate petition street to street w/get a feel how they stand on independence or by phone book.
16. Unanimous vote for new wording of petition accepted.
17. Heard reports from each committee. Most are works in progress.

Lee Casey, Recorder
Secession Time Line

June ‘05
Research – provide financial information, develop island support, message, literature, coalitions

July 15 - Informational Meetings/begin circulating Petition
- Have literature with research and common questions
- Petition out for two weeks, activists take petitions to circulate.
- Have special interest meetings for public works, school, library, small business owners

August 1 – Submit Petition to “municipal officers” with press conference/action
- 30 days for city to verify signatures
- 30 (?) days for city to set a hearing date

September 15 -22 - Prepare for Hearing
- Written reports finalized and speakers chosen
- Begin turnout of supporters from petition
- Letters of support from other organizations mailed to council
- Press releases out/call press conference

Oct. 1 ‘05 – Hearing and press conference asking the city to accept our petition

Nov 1 ‘05 – Phone bank to gage support, answer questions, clean up voter list

Jan 1 ‘06 – Informational house meetings

January 25 ‘06 – Get out the vote

Feb 1 ‘06 – Referendum Vote on Peaks Island

March 1 ‘06 – Council votes secession down
- Turn out to meeting and press event beforehand

April - August ‘06 – Mediation
- During this time we need to apply pressure to city government

Spring ’07 – Legislative Session begins
- Legislator to introduce bill
- Reports submitted
- P.R. and grass roots campaign

- 13 people -
ISLAND INDEPENDENCE COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 2 7 P.M.
BRACKETT CHURCH

AGENDA
REPORTS FROM WORK GROUPS:
EDUCATION - FINANCIAL FUNDRAISING - GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATIVE - LAND USE AND PUBLIC SERVICE!

PLEASE JOIN US!!
MINUTES OF MEETING
JUNE 2, 2005

11C Meeting – Reports of Committees – Mike Richards presiding


Mike Richard – Anybody has ideas for education committee?

a) Some moms looking at K-8 to fill school.
c) Have copies of Long Island town meeting reports? Contact Long Island to get them.
d) Curriculum – Portland has plan, excited by potential here – rarely see our kids on island (?) – look at long range, have mainland kids at PI school.
f) Barbara Hoppin could be resource after retirement.
g) Charles Ender – Adult Ed can be improved: constraints – custodial – school, community center, other schools on mainland or community center. Island Coalition sways annual reports from Island Commission.
h) Web site should be used to address questions. Legislative group plans – demonstration planned – watch for bulletins
i) Education Committee will have costs from other towns. We had independent accounting firm to help us. “Of course we (PI) could do this”. They are now firm for (?) – Financial analysis by outsiders good idea, required.
j) Maine paid ½ tuition when town had no school. Not now – will pay for private school

Land Use – Art Astarita

- Asked for parcel data in 2004 – have this data – tax/use/size/selling data – history
- Environmental study – water/marine resources/watershed. 10% on groundwater over 100 wells on island. Cursory sampling done – sparse – stopped monitoring water – Portland neglect of island. We have a lot of data.
• Pattern of island use – we can make these maps directly. Centeole (?) now and future – comp. Plan helpful – good to look at.
• Like to see the actual legislation for secession.

Mike Richards

• “Where does boat (ferry) fit in?” City does contribute help. Where does it apply? Still contribute to Long Island. Need to look into their help.
• Sewage treatment plant. $50 bill now will go to $300/month per Fortier. This is Public Service Commission issue. We leave (Mike R.) has sewer line map. Don't have summer water lines.
• “Original Neighborhood plan more useful. Latest is less detailed.”
• Public services group payment
  Police/fire/medical, etc.
  Ten people signed on

Russ - “No effect on ferry if we secede”. City gives $60,000 a year.

Cevia – did committee assignments – we have questions – no answer now – but later if attendees can.

  a) Meeting June 7 on Whaleback (?) – steering committee – ours? It’s identifier for secession business.
  b) Need date for when data needed
  d) Pensions – what happens to existing employees? No answer yet.
  e) House Island – need their input for number. Keep reports short.

Financial – Pam

Set goals – went to accounting office – helpful – assessor’s office less cooperative – 3 figures – spent 2 hours.

  $111,600,000
  2005 207,
  2006 302,500,000
  Taxes 2005
Too much detail for this meeting – committees to write up
Problem no cooperation
Rick Blackburn – financial officer
State official – Don Hall next in command.

Eric Eaton – will teach use of web site at library (2243)
“Folders” available – open an account – one person per committee – instructions on first page.
Password protection? – Open book may be okay, be aware all data open to anyone. Diligent and polite on web.

Administration – Vanessa Sylvester – Reporter
Press releases – media contact list
Mobilization bit – internal communication –
Someone to do record keeping needed for 11C.

Facts & Figures
Voter registration list being updated.
Demographics – need exact data. Nancy Hall was head of census in 2000 – source?
Logistics – campaign plan – strategy – time line, need brainstorm of time line – kinds of meetings?
Lobbying – coalition support – husband works for Common Cause.

Mike Richards – “Were lot of people last time still on island. Not coming forward. Old work not in main. What we have is update. We will have a binding vote on Peaks this time. We do have a reasonably good chance. We need to draw in last attempt people.

Fund Raising – (underline)
Fund raising plan – identify goals – short & long-term – costs for secession process – then costs for later – research to identify foundations
Other strategy – individual approaches – “dollar needs” info needed – don’t know what we must have.
Short-term – mail, web, polls, printing ballots.
Mike R. – steering committee to find dollar needs of individual needs.

Government – MJ Burnett
Copies of charters being explained – Island Institute is source.
Press & Mike – “Town reports give lists of all functions and costs – non-island town okay. 330 of them smaller than Peaks.
Sevrin Beliveau
Meeting with lobbyist – Russ Ed. Reporter appointment next Monday, 6/6/05, to see if feasible to use him.

(Photocopier available at Ashmore office)
Russ – “City responses – disinformation pattern – need to be consistent – we should keep record of all city atty. Pronouncements.
Need to keep track of contradictions by city – 1/3 of Portland budget goes to school.
Public Relations Comm. Make understandable and truthful points in arguments.
What are frequently asked questions? Truth Squad needed to keep info consistent. Need identified spokespersons. Prevent disjointed info – group of 5 or 6 people assigned to represent island.
The Islands
Cushing – no for now, might change by July 4.
Little Diamond – yes
Pumpkin Knob – yes
House – yes

Inclusion unique for islands – only Peaks may be best for the petition. Others may change their minds. Asked for commit. letter from other islands –
How to decide if others should be on petition.
Petition must identify territory. Identify simply. Just us.
Vote – for Little Diamond – majority House 11 for, 2 against
Vote – Pumpkin Knob – unanimous for inclusion on petition
Russ – explain to Little Diamond why we chose not to include them on petition.

Identify 5 people for petition
Mike – small groups that do the work
Russ – pitfalls – around time – city will take advantage of our dragging our feet.

These five (or less) are representative of the island for purposes of the petition.

First potential decisions to be made – who to serve on petition. The names must be on the list.

Russ – let Mike & Judy make decision for other three people.
Mike – Judy & he will put a pool together to help choose.
Russ – big meetings should be minimal

Steering Committee – Mike, Judy, Janice? Russ, Howard, Cevia, Mary Vanessa, Lynne Richard

Next meeting – Steering & subcommittee heads. Thursday 6/9/05.

George Rosol, Recorder
Since the last meeting 9 days ago, with the invaluable help of Cynthia Pedlikin and input from Judy Piawlock, I've been working to develop a framework from which we can proceed in our effort toward self-governance for Peaks Island. There are 50 copies of a proposed organization being passed around now, and in a few minutes I’ll go over it with you. But before I begin, I want to make a few personal comments and suggestions.

I’ve been thinking about this quite a lot over the past week, as I’m sure most of you have as well. And I think, in order to be successful, the most important thing we must prove—to the city, to the state, and to the community at large—is our ability to govern ourselves. Now if we were to ask the people of Peaks Island if that’s something we can do, I think that many, if not most, would say, immediately, “yes.” But if you stop to think about it, the Town of Peaks Island (or Casco Bay or whatever) would be a microcosm of Portland. And nearly everything that the government of Portland does, nearly every job in that government, would have to be performed by someone, or some ones, on the Island.

Putting aside our doubts about the wisdom of the people framing the rules for secession, we must admit that the framers (either by choice or by chance) made the very process of seeking self-governance an exercise in self-governance. This suggested roster of duties that I’m going to present to you, calls for the participation, ideally, of about 50 people. Now I’m not sure how many Peaks Islanders actively participated in the last go round, but whatever their number, they did an outstanding job. They put a lot of hours and hard work into the effort, and that work is going to make things a lot easier for us. They have done the initial research, laid the groundwork, and what we have to do is update the information—fill in the blanks. But it’s still not simple; there’s still a lot to do. And the more of us there are to do it, the easier it will be for all of us. If we each do our own small piece, we can put this crazy quilt together and prove to ourselves, to the doubters among us, and to the folks across the water, that we can indeed govern ourselves.

I have another point I want to make while I have the floor. When dealing with our friends and neighbors who are not supportive of our efforts toward self-determination, we must use all of the self-control we can muster. We must not be arrogant or confrontational or ill-spirited or overly sensitive. This is their island as well as ours and they have the right to their own opinions. And if and when we become a town, they will have a vote. They will have a say. What we need to do now is to make every effort to include them in our plans and let them know that—even if they disagree with us—we invite them to sit down with us as we discuss our future. When talking with folks, try to find out what it is that they would like to see done differently on Peaks Island. I don’t think there’s a person on this rock who doesn’t have something to say about the powers-that-be in Portland. Do your neighbors send their children to private schools on the mainland—or perhaps homeschool—because there’s something they don’t like about our present system? Suggest they join the Education Group. Does your friend with heart trouble worry about getting to the hospital in an emergency? Ask him to work with the Public Services Group. Do you know someone on the island who’s worked as an economist or an accountant? Invite her to sign up for the Financial Group.
But before you start thinking about your friends and neighbors, start with more familiar territory—yourself. What would you like to see changed? What would you want to remain the same? What are your interests? What are your talents, your skills? Are you a computer whiz? We need you. Are you good with numbers? We need you. Are you well organized? Do you like talking to people? Can you balance a checkbook? We need you. Are you a lawyer? Boy do we need you! And if the only thing you can think of that you feel confident doing is baking brownies, well, we’re all going to need sustenance. Now to the topic at hand.

The name of our organization—voted at our last meeting—is Island Independence Committee (IIC). I prefer to take the first “I” out of it and think of it as “Aye, I see!” or “Yes, I see!” (It also helps me in remembering the acronym.) Since we have chosen to call the entire project a “committee,” instead of calling the individual parts committees as well, let’s call them “groups.” (Or “work groups,” if you will, but I think we’ll get more volunteers if we leave any reference to work out of it.)

You can follow along on the chart as I try to outline each group, with an idea of its personnel and what it needs to accomplish. This is a fairly rough outline—there are many more details involved—but each committee will address those individually. As I said earlier, a lot of the work has been done by those brave souls who made the last secession effort, so one of the first jobs to be done is to make available copies of the “Town of Peaks Island” book and the legislation. Each group should have a copy to use as a guide in its research. Judy Piawlock is in the process of gathering those up (so if you have one, please let Judy know) and, if needed, more copies will be made.

Steering Group. At the top of the chart is the Steering Group. This group consists of a representative from each of the other groups—actually, the leaders or chairmen of those groups. There are 8 major groups and some of those have sub-groups. In addition, the Steering Group would also need a moderator, a secretary (who would also serve on the administrative committee), and a treasurer. (Although any of these last three could come from among the representatives, it seems they would have enough to do in their individual groups.) The Steering Group, therefore, would have 11 members. And, if some of the sub-groups felt the need to be represented individually, that number could be larger.

The primary job of the Steering Group is to coordinate the entire effort. Each representative brings the research results of his or her group to the Steering Group who then puts the information together. The Steering Group is also be responsible for the “time line”—making sure that everything is done according to schedule. The Steering Group, would establish the purpose of secession and to prepare a formal presentation, which, according to the legislation, “must include a description of the problems that have led to the secession effort.”

(Note: The following paragraph may not be in the presentation—only in writing.) With input from the various groups, the Steering Group is charged with assessing the effect of secession on the City of Portland, on the other islands of Casco Bay, and on South
Portland. They must also address the questions of: 1) whether Portland has the ability to continue to deliver services to Peaks, 2) would the City of Portland and the Town of Peaks be able to co-exist with Portland supplying those needed services, and 3) if not, is there an alternative municipality that could deliver those services. And, if the time comes that we need to hire a consultant, or consultants—such as a lobbyist, an attorney, or a CPA—this would be done by the Steering Group with the input from the Administrative Group.

**Negotiating Group.** This is the "group of five" or, as the legislation puts it, "not more than 5 people who will serve as representatives of the secession territory." These are the negotiators. Once all of the research is done, the information is collected, the petition is signed (and this bears repeating: the petition is simply a request for a hearing to discuss whether we should secede from Portland) after all of this is accomplished, these are the people who will negotiate with the city. All of these negotiators can, but not necessarily will, come from the ranks of the Steering Group. There may be people among us who would be especially talented as negotiators but who, for one reason or another, would not be part of the working groups. But it would certainly make sense for some of the negotiators to come from Steering. If you'll notice on your chart, this is a group that is off to the side. This group is not placed there because it's unimportant; these folks will ultimately be very important to our effort. They are off to the side because they need not be chosen now. However, as we go about our research, we should all be thinking about whom we would want to represent us when, and if, we present our case.

**Education Group.** This group will provide a plan for the provision of educational services, including school transportation, for all students on the Island—K through 12. That means decisions about Peaks Island Elementary and arrangements for the schooling of middle- and high-school students. If we look at the pie chart, developed in 1994, of the proposed budget for the Town of Peaks Island, we see that nearly one-half of the pie is consumed by the school budget. In other words, every property on Peaks Island would have been taxed approximately ten dollars per thousand for education alone. For this reason—and because most of us consider education among our highest priorities, the Education Group is a very important one in the scheme of things. But, as I've said repeatedly, a lot of the work has already been done, so this group could probably do its research with 3 or 4 people. And, by the way, the person formerly in charge of the education research has volunteered to serve as a member of this committee.

**Land Use Group.** This group will supply information required by the legislation regarding: 1) the physical characteristics of the island, the natural terrain—including general topography, major watersheds, soil conditions, and such features as rivers and lakes (there's no mention of oceans!); 2) the pattern of physical development and land use—residential, commercial, institutional, and so forth; 3) land use controls and planning, both in the present and proposed for the future; and 4) environmental issues. This group would probably need 3 to 4 people. I won't name names, but you know who you are!

**Financial Group.** These folks will look into the fiscal data—including such things as the tax capacity of the seceding territory, the fiscal impact secession might impose on
Portland and adjacent communities, the present bond indebtedness, and so on. They will also provide a plan for the distribution of tangible assets and liabilities, that is, the property of Portland on the island. And very importantly, this group will, with input from all of the other groups, propose a budget for the town—like where’s the money coming from (taxes, supplemental revenues) and where is it going. It goes without saying that this is a very important group that must look into the past and analyze what has been done and then propose a fiscal plan for the future. From 8 to 10 people would not be too many for this group.

**Fundraising Group.** Needless to say, in order to accomplish our goals, we will need funds. We’re not talking here about funds to run our proposed town. We’re talking about the money we will need just to administer the effort toward self-governance. Some people have already reached into our pockets to pay for things like copying and so on, and in the long run, these costs can mount up. Also, we hope that we can count on the professional expertise of Peaks Islanders as we do our work, but we don’t want to take undue advantage of our volunteers. And if we get to the point where we might need consultant services—outside lawyers, accountants, a lobbyist—we will need a considerable amount of money. So let’s find 5 or more people to get those creative juices flowing. By the way, we already have one talented fund-raiser aboard.

**Government Group.** So we get to run the show—then what? Here’s a group of cool-headed islanders who will do some long-range planning for us. The folks across the water and, perhaps more importantly, our neighbors who are sitting on the fence, are going to want to know how we intend to govern ourselves. We’ll need a school committee, no doubt, and a planning board and a town clerk. A tax assessor (shudder!) Will we have a town council? A mayor? Town meetings? Will we hire a city manager? Permanently or short-term? You’ll also want to speak to people on Long Island and in other small towns throughout Maine. I was talking with someone on the boat who says she wants to run for Portland City Council next term. You know who you are and this should be right up your alley. And we’ll need about 4 or 5 others.

**Public Services Group.** This is a three-part group and we need at least 8 people.

The first sub-group is **Police, Fire & Emergency Medical** and its members will assess the needs of the town with regard to all three of these crucial services, submit a plan as to how we will obtain them, and prepare a budget. Just as an example of what you might address: Do we need our own fireboat and a paramedic to go with it?

The second sub-group is **Public Works and Transportation**, and it, along with Police, Fire & Emergency Medical, takes up about a third of that pie mentioned earlier. Your areas: road maintenance and transportation issues, waste disposal, street lights, arrangements with the water district, and so on and on. Again—research, plan, budget.

The third sub-group is **Social Services**, which includes the health center, the child development center, senior services, recreation, general assistance, and the library.
P.S. to the Public Services Group: you’ll find lots of help in “the book.” And I believe we already have three volunteers, two of whom have worked on this before.

Administrative Group. Last but not least, this group of about 10 or more people will need to take care of the nitty-gritty—the administration, the communications, and the details. One important area to be handled by this group is the petition, with all three of its sub-groups working together.

The first sub-group is Public Relations. These folks will get the word out (putting a positive spin on everything of course); disseminate information through newsletters, press releases, and other publicity; answer questions (and there will be questions!).

The second sub-group is Facts & Figures. This sub-group will update the facts and figures and other information in the front of “the book,” and obtain the voter rolls for the petition. To quote the legislation, we also need the following information: “present population, past population change, and projected population.” It would also be very helpful to the other groups to have the present resident population broken down by age (0-4, 5-10, 11-17, 19-64, 65 & over) to help them in making decisions about schooling, senior citizen issues and so on. And then we’ll also need the non-resident population.

The third sub-group, Logistics, will be essential to the effort. They’ll need to organize a phone tree, make meeting arrangements, arrange for polling and petitions, find venues, do copying, take minutes, keep lists of workers with contact information, and general organization. They’ll also look into finding consultants when we need them.

Last week a lot of us signed up, and some wrote down what they’d like to do. Now that you know what there is to do, we hope to get more folks on the list tonight and more people saying what groups they’re interested in. So, please, look over the chart and see Judy Piawlock tonight—either to sign up or to update the information you put down last week.

Thank you for your patience.

Respectfully submitted, Cecia Howel

Note: When all are finalized, need 50 copies of chart with any corrections and several copies of this proposal and the legislation.
ISLAND INDEPENDENCE COMMITTEE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

STEERING COMMITTEE
MODERATOR, SECRETARY, TREASURER
GROUP CHAIRS

EDUCATION  LAND USE  FINANCIAL  FUNDRAISING  GOVERNMENT  PUBLIC SERVICES

Portland Budget
Town of Peaks Budget

Police, Fire, Emergency, Medical
Public Works, Transportation
Social Services, Library

NEGOTIATING TEAM

ADMINISTRATIVE
Public Relations
Facts and Figures
Voter Rolls
Logistics
Consultant and Lobbyist
Memo to: Members of the Public Services Group, IIC  
(Island Independence Committee)

From: Cevia & George Rosol (co-leaders)

Thanks to all of you for volunteering to work with our very important group. If each of us does our share of the work, we should be able to accomplish our goals in short order. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us. If you can’t reach us, Michele Tranes should be able to help as well. Russ Edwards is also an excellent source of information.

The Steering Group will be meeting this Thursday, June 9, at 7 p.m. at Brackett Church. Neither George and I nor Michele can attend since we have prior commitments. I’ve asked Judy Piawlock to represent us at that meeting. The meetings are open to all, so if any of you can attend, please do so.

As for meetings of our own group, we’ll try to keep those to a minimum. But let’s set a goal of all getting together in about 3 weeks to discuss what we’ve accomplished and to pick one another’s brains. Please let us know, by phone or email, what days and times are generally best for you.

We have a couple of the notebooks from the ’90s being passed around the group. If you would like to borrow one, please call Michele who will be tracking them. They are very interesting and should be helpful. In the meantime, we’re including with your packet those pages from the book that we think you will need. We haven’t established a due date yet, but the sooner this is done, the better. So please get together with your sub-group and get the ball rolling.

We’re enclosing the following for each of you to help get you started:

- Roster of our group
- Copy of the minutes from our first meeting 6/1/2005
- Projected budgets from the last effort
- Applicable witness statements from the last secession effort
- Questions and issues your sub-group will need to address
- Possible sources of information for your particular research
- Personal Property list from last time (FYI only—new to be supplied)

One more thing—when speaking to people about what we’re doing, the key word, rather than secession, is “self-determination.” It’s also a good thing to keep in mind as we go about our own tasks.

Good hunting! Cevia & George
The group considering separation of Peaks from Portland will be meeting Thursday May 19th
7 pm, in Brackett Church Hall

Our agenda will be setting up work groups to meet the legislative requirements.
Join us Tuesday, May 10 at 6:30 PM in Brackett Church for the third community-wide meeting to discuss this and other efforts underway to address excessive and unfair property taxes.

The intent of this meeting is to establish leadership for this option and to set up the se-cede To withdraw formally from membership in an organization, association, or alliance.

required to move the process forward. Please attend!

We've Only Begun to Fight
AGENDA

SESSION DISCUSSION GROUP

Moderator- Mike Richards

Tuesday May 10, 2005

1. Appointment of a secretary Pro tem
2. Review of last weeks meeting - Mike Richards
3. Name for our group
4. Should we be non-profit?
5. Selection of a committee of five pro tem.
6. Defining various work groups to fulfill requirements of the law.
7. Other business
Notes

Joe Gillooly

Dorothy & Ralph Morris
766-5791
dorothy.morris@maine.edu

Public Works
766-2290

Diane Parker
Lynn Richard
Robin Clark
Lawry Wyman

766-2227
744-2419

General

Will give support where ever it turns out you need help.

Lynn & Richard 1984
MINUTES OF MEETING
MAY 10, 2005

A meeting was held today on Peaks Island at the Brackett Memorial Church to discuss the issue of cessation from the City of Portland. Michael Richards agreed to serve as Moderator for the meeting, and Ann Foster agreed to serve as Secretary pro tem.

Mike reported that Joe Kane, President of the Peaks Island Neighborhood Association, called him to say that National Public Radio may be doing a story on Peaks Island's secession attempt, but that Joe and PINA wanted to maintain a neutral stance regarding secession, so Joe would direct NPR to us. Mike also suggested that, we think of the primary issue not as secession, but as self-governance, and that we direct our attention to local control over property taxes, and public expenditures in our schools, police and fire departments, public works, and other public areas. We have a Parent/Teacher Association, but if we become a town we will need a School Board and a Planning Board. We should also ask ourselves whether the police are enforcing the laws in the manner we want, and whether we want and can afford a fireboat to be kept on Peaks Island. We will have to handle trash collection and the transfer station, and the costs of running them.

Furthermore, if self-governance is to succeed, we need the involvement of a majority of the people on the Island. We should also recognize that the concept of self-governance by Peaks Islanders is a threat to island residents who are currently employed by the City at the school and public works, who may feel that their jobs are in jeopardy. We do have large pool of talent on Peaks Island, and we are independent-minded, but primarily we want to insure the continuance of the peace, security, and sense of community on the Island. If we can pool our resources together and work together, and if we are willing to relinquish a little of our independence, we can govern ourselves. We should not expect for self-governance to create an immediate reduction in our property taxes. In fact, we should note that it took Long Island six years before they began to "see a profit" from self-governance.

We reviewed the Maine statute enacted in 1999 which provides the framework for secession/self-governance requests. It requires that we present the City of Portland with a petition for a public hearing signed by more than 50% of the registered voters on Peaks Island. Judy Piawlok has the Peaks Island voter registration list, but it contains the names of numerous people who have died or moved away, so it must be purged, and we should come to some agreement with the City of Portland regarding that. We also reviewed the Maine Constitution, Article 1, Section 1 that gives us the unalienable and indefeasible right to govern.
ourselves. Therefore, if the majority of Peaks Islanders have voted for secession and self-governance, it seems contrary to the Constitution for the statute to give City of Portland and the Maine State Legislature the power to overrule them. The key question for the Legislature must be whether we are capable of governing ourselves, and we must demonstrate that we can. PINA has traditionally attempted to represent the Islanders with regard to the City, with mixed success, and the City prefers to deal with the Island as a unit and so has contacted PINA in the past for guidance, but PINA is not regarded by many of the Islanders as truly representative, nor does it possess the power to make final, binding decisions for the Islanders. In order to proceed, this group needs to organize itself into specific sub-committees or work-groups, each of which can then delve into specific areas of inquiry.

The question was raised regarding time lines and the secession statute. We review the statute and it puts not time-lines on us, but it requires us first to determine the secession territory. Russ Edwards has been in contact with House Island, Little Diamond Island, Cushing Island, and Cliff Island, and they are interested in joining us. In order to include them on the Petitions, however, we would need to know the population of these islands and the names and addresses of the voters registered there. We next must choose up to five representatives for the secession process. We can then finalize the petition and began to gather signatures. After we present the petitions to the City of Portland, the city must conduct a public hearing within one to four months. At the public hearing, we must present a formal proposal. Therefore, we need to begin developing a proposal now, so that we had it ready when we present the signed petitions to the City. The purpose of the hearing is to consider whether Peaks Island should succeed, or whether there are other solutions to the problems giving rise to the secession request. The City then must conduct an advisory referendum on Peaks Island and, if it wants, in the City of Portland. Even if the city refuses to support our attempt to succeed in self-governance, we can go to the state legislature and present our case there. Finally, we discussed the fact that at some point, we may need to go to court to contest the unconstitutionality of the new secession statute.

We discussed the fact that we are not fighting with the City of Portland or "burning our bridges" to the City; we simply want to govern ourselves and make our own financial decisions. We also discussed the possibility of joining the City of South Portland, which is actually closer than the City of Portland. We discussed the fact that a town meeting on Peaks Island could be healthy, if not enjoyable, for us and that although the State sets the tax law, the mill rate is decided by the town. We discussed the fact that we need to become highly organized in functioning and display our ability to govern ourselves.
Russ Edwards has spoken with attorney Severin Belliveau about serving as a lobbyist for us in the state legislature. Mr. Belliveau is one of the best lobbyists available, but his fees range from $25,000 to $50,000, depending on the length of the legislative session. We discussed fundraising and consideration of establishing a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization so that donations would be tax-deductible, but we were concerned that the law would not allow us to spend more than 5% of our operating budget on lobbying efforts. We considered asking the Island Institute for advice on becoming a tax-exempt organization, and whether we might operate under their umbrella, but this will probably depend on the number of Island people who support secession and self-governance. Jennifer Enders agreed to research the possibility of involving the Island Endowment Fund.

We discussed the problem that, while this process is ongoing, we still must pay the taxes that the City has assessed the we discussed property tax questions regarding comparable properties, the tax base, the homestead exemption and tax abatements, but Otis Thompson and his groups are working on those issues exclusively.

We next discussed a name for our group. We considered Island Town Research Committee, Island Town Governments Committee, Island Self-Determination Committee (consistent with the web site that has been set up as www.selfdeterminationfor.us), but we chose by unanimous vote the Island Independence Committee.

We next discussed whether to invite the other islands to join us. Russ Edwards pointed out that, in the last secession attempt, it was determined that if the other islands came with us, we would have a 50% reduction in taxes, but if they did not come with us, we would have only a 20% reduction in taxes. Some people spoke in favor of including the other islands, but others had reservations because of the expenses they might incur. One attendee suggested that we should first try to establish the facts and figures regarding secession and self-governance before circulating a petition. Another attendee suggested that we determine soon how many Island residents want to go forward with the secession/self-governance inquiry.

Russ Edwards suggested that we began discussions with the City by first meeting with them to let them know our intentions and to get their assurance of cooperation from the department heads, so we can gather the information we need. Russ, Judy Piawlok and Mike Richards were appointed by the group to meet with the City Manager for this purpose as soon as possible.

In the meanwhile, Cevia Rosol suggested that we begin to update the Town of Peaks Island book, and Judy gave her a copy for her reference and use. We
discussed the various areas of inquiry, and among them, Joe mentioned that we must arrange for trash disposal, as the Island produces a lot of it, and we often encounter logistical problems regarding the tides and the barge schedule. We must also define various work-groups in order to meet the legal requirements of the statute, and Cevia will try to organize that issue and make some recommendations for our consideration. Another member suggested that we consider what it legally takes to be a registered voter on Peaks Island and suggested that one need not even have a principal residence here to be a registered voter, as one can register on the day of the vote. We agreed that one of the work-groups should address this issue.

We agreed to meet again on Thursday, May 26th at 7 p.m., to discuss these issues further.
Join us Tuesday, May 3 at 6:30 PM in Brackett Church for the second meeting to discuss this and other efforts underway to address excessive and unfair property taxes.

Long Island representative Mark Greene will answer questions and speak about his community's experiences and the current state of the island more than a decade after it's successful succession from the city.

We've only begun to fight.
AGENDA

SESSION DISCUSSION GROUP

Tuesday May 3, 2005

Moderator- Mike Richards


2. Long Island Now - Steve Trane - Selectman, Town of Long Island

3. Questions and answer period for Mark and Steve.

4. Steps necessary to bring a session effort to the legislature. - Mike Richards

5. Questions for Mike

6. Tasks ahead and organization of groups to deal with the various tasks.
   A. Name for our group
      a. Non-profit?

NOTES
First Meeting
April 26

Howard Pederson
Glenn Robinson
Bruce SB Thomas
Peggy Fallon SB Thomas
Jehice Letten
Sylvie Peterson
Ernaise Lissauer
Betty Helmes

Tom
Kendall Hoagren
Richard & Martha Callow
Jean Ashmore
George & Celia Roed

Gretchen Steere
Steph Costa
Castle
Mark & Terry Shain
Mike Langella
MJ Bushnell
Richard Schmid
 Moose Towers

Nancy - Joe Wright
Doug ML Oane
George Meade

LET Mark Shain - for our meeting -
know -

Tuesday week from Tonight - 6:30 pm -