2006

Peaks Island Independence Committee : IIC Steering Committee Minutes, 2006.

Peaks Island Independence Committee

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From: Lynne Richard <islynne@maine.rr.com>
Subject: minutes: SC August 31 2006
Date: September 14, 2006 6:12:15 PM EDT
To: MJ Burnette <mj.burnette@yahoo.com>, Rob and Jill Tiffany <robtpeaks@yahoo.com>, Bob Stek <robert.stek@gmail.com>, Jeff Robbins <jrobbinsLVH@yahoo.com>, Mike Richards <mrichards@troubheisler.com>, Lynne Richard <islynne@maine.rr.com>, Marjorie Phyfe <mphyfe@maine.rr.com>, Frank Peretti <peretti@maine.rr.com>, Howard Pedlikin <howardfic@maine.rr.com>, Linda Capone Newton <lcaponenewton@yahoo.com>, Mike Langella <mlangell@maine.rr.com>, Judy Piawlock <jpiawlock@aol.com>, Christina Foster <cfoster@usm.maine.edu>, Russ Edwards <walrussed@cs.com>, Mike Beebe <mbeebe@aol.com>, David & Jane Adams <dladams_4@msn.com>

----- Original Message -----
From: Lynne Richard
To: Lynne Richard
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2006 1:13 PM
Subject: SC August 31 2006.wps

Steering Committee Minutes
August 31, 2006

Moderators: Lynne Richard and Mike Langella

1) The agenda was reviewed.
2) Treasurer's Report: We have around $10,000.

3) Chair Report: Mike Richards
We have not responded to Lane Williamson's letter about parallel tracks. Should we respond? Do we want to? Mike e-mailed her a copy of the letter to the mayor. Bill Zimmerman has had discussions with Lane, re: speaking with a common voice to resolve issues around negotiations structure. The mayor wants to come out every other week and discuss secession, alternating with the SNS. Mike will draft a letter and send it to everyone before sending it to Lane.
There was discussion of sustaining what we have on the island and not losing it. There was discussion of how well the IIC has explored solutions other than secession. Some committee members think we have. Regardless, Portland may be stonewalling and wasting our time.

Mike R told the mayor SNS needs to make its meetings public if they are claiming to represent the island. The SNS meetings are private, not public. Lynne pointed out that solutions, even if granted, may not give us authority over Peaks Island, financial and otherwise. Marjorie moved we defer to a professional opinion on the parallel tracks, and on our efforts to find alternatives to secession, before we continue. We'll cite what we've
done in a letter to Severin that will be drafted by Lynne Richard and Mike Richards. The motion was seconded. Passed unanimously. Severin will have the letter Tuesday.

-There was comment that SNS's web site has some inaccuracies in it.

**General Meeting Protocol:** Linda Capone-Newton

A draft handout was sent around and read. The purpose of the general meeting will be twofold:
1) to provide information to the general public;
2) to get information from the public to the steering committee

The purpose of the steering committee meeting is to work on the agenda and issues that are ongoing.

E-mail Linda with revisions & feedback to be used at the general meeting next Thursday. Lynne, Mike L and Mike R will provide info to the attendees, Judy Piawlock will be the greeter.
Marjorie will collect index cards at the beginning and decide who could best answer questions asked.
MJ wants to be timekeeper at the general meeting.
There was discussion of the written agenda, which will be on the chart for the public to see.

**Fundraising:** Mike Beebe

- sending out two letters; one to seasonal resident who have already donated; and the second to ask those who haven’t donated. Members may need to remind people to donate via signs or phone calls.
On 9/23 -a more formalized bottle drive near the boat; postcards will be sent out, another on 10/7.
Jane Banquer and Mary Mayo are helping.

**Negotiations Team Report:** Lynne Richard

The team met yesterday before receiving the letter from the mayor, and has reviewed the public documents they have and could get.
9/13 at 6:15 at the gym was discussed as a possible negotiation date per Mayor Cohen. Issues re: financial settlement were discussed.
Lynne clarified that the PWD owns the sewer infrastructure on Peaks, not Portland.
There was an update on the web site and that more people need to post there.

The executive committee then went into session. The meeting was concluded at 9:10
Moderator: Lynne Richard

Kevin Donoghue was present. He is currently running for City Council, and was introduced to the committee by Lynne. Kevin has talked to lots of people on the mainland about secession, but hasn't talked to Peaks Islanders. As a prospective planner, he believes Portland is short-sighted and he mistrusts Portland's management. He doesn't feel Portland really listens to people. Kevin is not against secession and believes Peaks is more capable of self-governance than some other towns or islands. He reports, in answer to committee member's question as to what opinions he's heard from people who live in Portland, that Portland generally perceives the secession movement of Peaks as a tax revolt. He stressed that Portland's City Council won't care whether people in Portland are in favor of Peaks' secession or not. Kevin pointed out that the revaluation issue was insensitive on Portland's part. Lynne assured Kevin that we do care whether people are in favor of secession or not. Kevin reported that Portland is not responsive regarding zoning issues and thinks new city management would be a good thing for Portland.

Negotiations Report: Mike Langella

Mike reported that the negotiations team must reschedule the meeting for next week because several members of the team can't be there.
Bill Zimmerman had a conversation with Lane.
Mayor Cohen won't give us any more information. Portland wants us to go find out any remaining information ourselves. The City has said our budget is not correct, but Portland is refusing to give us information on the budget.

A comment was made that Portland doesn't want to negotiate secession but to negotiate staying together. Portland is claiming that they don't have to negotiate secession, while our legal opinion says that Portland does. Portland is not understanding its responsibility.
There was discussion of the two parallel tracks: 1) the SNS and IIC negotiating with Portland for secession; 2) the SNS and IIC negotiation with Portland for other solutions. We believe there are no other solutions and that whatever may be proposed, are not going to work. The point was made that the SNS doesn't exist without us. Portland is not in conformance with statute by refusing to negotiate secession and refusing to give us information. However, we keep hammering Portland with correspondence.

A suggestion was made to have Mike ask Portland whether they'll negotiate with us on TV, in public, so that people can see that Portland is posturing and that we're reasonable. There was discussion about the negotiating team and reassurance that they are prepared.
It was reported that one SNS person has learned of the tuition "voucher" possibility, and is reconsidering his/her opposition.
The IIC needs to get our information out. Everyone's voice needs to be heard.

It was moved and seconded that the previous meeting's minutes be accepted. Passed unanimously.

The executive committee then went into session. Meeting concluded at 9:06 p.m.

Recorder: Janis B. Price
IIC Minutes of
June 15, 2006 Meeting

Moderated by: Michael Richards

Notes: If people want to get the agenda, put your email on the list. Agendas will be posted publicly from now on. We need to be more inclusive about minutes as well.

1. Minutes: June 8, 2006 minutes approved by consensus of committee.

2. Treasurer's Report: Judy reported: $2471.16 savings
   $1816.90 in checking
   $200 in cash
   $4568.06 total

   There are 18 t-shirts left, and 10 prints from SueEllen, both of which are selling fast. We should get more t-shirts and possibly hats for Peaks-Fest.

   Fundraising: Bob Steck announced the formation of the Founder's Club. Anyone who donates a $1000 or more (cumulative) will get their name on a plaque if we become a town.

   We have made $1400-1500 on E-bay sales so far. More Ebay items on sale now, but we’re always looking for donations.

   Other ideas: summer residents could work with other summer residents to raise money, bottle/can drive (donated plastic bags for that), and Peaks Island Puzzle for sale (puzzle-price was prohibitive at the time). Lowry will discuss with Bob. Betty Heller donated 40-50 vintage dresses made in Mexico and could possibly do a Fashion Show, with half the money going to PI Tax Assistance.

3. Referendum Review

   The official vote count was 393 to 290 with 58% voting in favor of secession. Judy estimates a very high voter turnout. We need to have an accurate voter registration list in the future, and to determine the actual turnout. Judy, Rita, Linda Cohen (City Clerk) will get together in a month (list sealed for 1 month) and will purge the list. If we have an accurate list we could have our own vote which would need to be credible. We are already conducting our own votes since there are no Portlanders here overseeing our votes.

   Question: will summer people be able to vote? We have kept them engaged, and we do have a list. We could conduct an advisory vote of summer residents. We could also vote after mediation with all homeowner so legislature can see a true % of support on the island.

   What about the vote challenges? Only 3 challenges went through; there was an attempt to challenge 3 others. Also, 4 absentee votes were challenged. They all counted since it wasn't a close enough vote to review the challenges.

   Comment: 58% would be landslide in any other election. It is a 16-point spread.

   The Public Relations committee needs to counteract the negativity about the numbers. Mike urged people to respond to news as individuals. Howard is Chair of PR and said feel free to contact him as well. Portland Press Herald will not publish your letter if you also submit it to
other papers.

Comment: Should we have a sample town meeting? These IIC meetings should operate just like town meeting. Town meetings meet once a year as a ‘legislature’; selectmen do what the town instructs. We could perhaps share a town manager with other islands. People feel more empowered at town meetings, even though the city just ignored our information.

We will include a binding ratification vote in the secession bill we submit to the legislature. We could have a vote before going to legislature if we can make progress with Portland. Statute says that we should make support clear by votes, polls, canvasses, and other means. An island vote would show our ability to conduct a proper vote and govern ourselves.

After the City Council vote, the next step is negotiation, then mediation, NOT arbitration (private judge); mediator doesn’t make any decisions. We have 6 months to come to an agreement (timeline starts with first meeting) and then we go to the legislature.

4. Sub-Committee Assignments

Background: Current sub-committees have worked hard to make estimated costs. Other information is needed to transition if/when we become a town. Example: Portland Water District numbers have gone down due to debt being paid.

Anyone is welcome to join the various committees. Always looking for a new perspective, and there is still a lot of work to be done.

Education: almost half of every local tax dollar goes to education, so it’s very important. Mike Langella is chair. Unresolved issues: cost of tuition for secondary students to Portland Public. Looking into costs since April; published list for per pupil is $7205, but our number will be determined during mediation. Legislature will consider Education the most important thing in our bill. Fewer than 10 of our elementary students and 10 in secondary need special educational help, so it’s not a significant increase in costs. Long Island already has an arrangement and they pay the state fund of $7205; it’s a continuing contract issue.

Can Portland refuse to negotiate? Perhaps, but it will be difficult to get through mediation without making some agreement, and the state could step in. Chebeague and Cumberland worked out a deal after a rough start.

Public Safety: Betty Heller, Michelle Traines

Public Services (including sewage): Cevia Rosal, Pete Mayo

Social Services: Marjorie Phyfe

Land Use/Zoning: Art Astarita

Finance: Frank Peretti

Public Works: Jeff Robbins

Governance: MJ Burnett

Voter Registration: Judy Piawlock

Fundraising: Bob Steck

Public Relations: Howard Pedlikin

Assignment: Plan in place by the next meeting on what you will do to get through the transition and what we need from mediation.
5. By-laws for the IIC

We have produced a draft, and will need to move forward to complete it. Linda Capone-Newton is working on it, and is welcoming volunteers. Clear written by-laws to reflect our goals of democracy.

6. Future meeting schedule

Discussion on whether we could afford to take a short break. It was decided we could go back to our regular schedule of the first and third Thursdays of each month. Subcommittees can continue to meet.

Meet here next Thursday and then 2 weeks off until 6th of July.

7. City Council Vote Plan

City Council will vote on Monday on whether they support our vote. After vote we will meet with City Council to discuss secession, and after ‘a reasonable time,’ if we can't come to agreement, then we go into mediation. After 6 months from beginning of discussions the mediator will list the agreements and non-agreements, and the report will list go to legislature to resolve in bill.

The City Council will meet on Monday at 7:00 for regular meeting. Agenda will be out tomorrow and we can see if they will vote. Get as many people as possible to go to the meeting.

Discussion: Trying to get communication with city councilors: send information to city. There was discussion on whether we should try to postpone their vote until the July 17th meeting in the hopes of convincing councilors.

Motion: Move to formally invite City Council to meet with IIC and open to the public, as soon as possible to discussion secession before they vote. Seconded.

Discussion: if we delay city vote to July, negotiations start in August and end in January ‘07.

No guarantee on when they vote. Also talk to Local and State Committee from the legislature since they have been dismissive. Telephone calls are very effective as well. Cumberland voted against Chebeague and still moved forward. What kind of meeting? Formal or more informal (e.g., potluck). We probably can't influence them.

Committee vote: 1 in favor, rest of committee opposed. Motions fails.

Move: To ask City Council to meet with IIC in general as soon as possible. Seconded. Vote: Yes (unanimous). Mike Richards will contact City Council on that and go to the media.

Move: IIC and everyone else should try to attend the City Council Meeting on Monday if we're on the agenda; everyone wear their t-shirts. Be prepared to engage with councilors. Seconded. Entire group voted: Yes. Howard will let media know; swayed by big turn out.

Need to keep records about us developing relationship with Portland to try to keep positive and beneficial matter for all of us.

8. Membership/Inclusion Plan:

Include as many people in the process including doubters and opposed to the process. After the
vote on Tuesday, have had gracious comments by people who was opposed are more willing to help. Let's talk about our similarities and differences and about our ideas for Peaks Island.

Summer resident inclusion: in town meetings year-round tax-payers attend but sit in a separate section; they are invited to discuss issues, but only registered voters can vote.

Suggestion: IIC and Solutions not Secession potluck and meet at the Lions' Club or something along those lines. Good idea, if they will agree to come.

9. Other

Municipal employees who work on Peaks should be contacted by IIC to review our budget so that all workers can remain here if they want. Subcommittee heads should take care of this; final decision on hiring would be made by the Town Meeting.

One mock or model town meeting; combine with potluck this summer?

Look forward to another vote and try to get the numbers higher, both for the legislature and for our own needs.

IIC has always said the school is the most important part of the community. Let's be proactive about stating that our school is very important to the island community.

It's not too early to start our personal lobbying in the legislature.

Can our tax dollars to the City of Portland be used for lobbying against us? Yes, we can't stop them. Should we make an issue of this? Is it unethical? Discuss with Portland's neighbors? We will point this out to City Council and ask Gary Wood.

Comment: Thank everyone for coming supporters, opposition, and nonvoters.
IIC Meeting Minutes  
June 1, 2006

Moderator: Michael Richards

1. **Minutes:** Amended last week's minutes to read that the 350 spots in the parking garage is for ALL the islands, not just Peaks. Approved as amended.

2. **Treasurer's Report:** $2471 savings, $377 checking. The attorney's bills has been reviewed and Mike Richards will do a final review before further obligation. We should itemize where are donations are going to, and where they came from. More detailed about our revenue and expenditures. This was generally agreed upon so that we can publish this information at a later date.

3. **Fundraising:** $700 in May with 46 more t-shirts coming to be sold. Need more ebay contributions. There were compliments to Bob for all his hard work on fundraising.

4. **Process Issues:** Do not use the name of the IIC for comments unless vetted by the PR Committee. Peronal letters to the editor are excluded from this rule. We should be hitting the key points in the last 2 weeks which are bascially self-governance, and the vote on the 13th is very important; avoid small details and discuss big picture.

5. **Legislators' Meeting Review:** The legislators said they would not guarantee the legislature will allow us a ratification vote, and even if we put it in our proposed bill, they may amend it out. (We think if we include a provision that Peaks would pay for the final vote, we might avoid having a finanical “mandate” in the bill so we wouldn't need a 2/3 vote in the legislature to pass.) There was a question whether we received all the information we needed from the City; we say no, the city says yes. Committee chairs are asked to send Mike R an email on what information they are missing, so we can ask for it again and copy the legislators so they can see the City has not been dealing fairly with us.

6. **Canvass:** We should try not to talk about the second vote, but discuss factual issues. Canvass purpose: give out information and get a feel for the vote.

7. **Pre-election weekend:** We booked the Community Center room Saturday, June 10, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. We could have speakers, and afterward maybe a parade.

8. **PR Committee:** Channel 6 plans to come this weekend and interview IIC and Solution Not Secessions. Lynn will revise newsletter.

9. **Other:** Negotiations with the city must be done in the public eye. Discussion of how to get people excited about the vote on June 13th. We should have a worst case scenerio budget, and Finance is producing it now. We should demand, before the vote, the letter promised by the city estimating our fall tax bills; the city promised this would occur week two weeks ago. Discussion of the June 5th City Council meeting. (Note: Mike discovered Peaks Island is NOT on the agenda).
SueEllen related her recent epiphany on the vote: Vote YES!
Mike Langella clarified that the state school maximum tuition rate can be negotiated, so we could contract to pay more than the state's rate (currently $7000). The city is only producing the state number, but they are not giving him the real per student number which is somewhere around $11,000.
Frank will go to the City Council to discuss the "simulated" budget.
Suggested talking point: Portland will not be fair to us in negotiations, but we want to establish the Town of Peaks Island for future generations.
Someone should write a response to Gene Taylor's Letters to the Editor in the Forecaster. Frank volunteered.
Discussion of Lynne's proposed letter to the other Portland neighborhood associations. Good, but concerns about whether we should discuss the sewer costs.
The letter was approved for Lynne to send out.
Art discussed the lack of survey grade parcel map which the City promised to us but has not delivered. Art will summarize to Mike R.
Minutes of
June 8, 2006 Meeting

Moderated by: Michael Richards

1. Minutes: Approved by consensus.

2. Treasurer’s Report: Judy reported:
   - $2471.16 in savings
   - $2470.76 in checking
   - no cash
   - $4941.92 total

   Judy will work on putting receipts into different categories (ebay sales, donations, shirt-sales, etc.). Report approved.

3. Canvass Report: Christina reported on the canvass and groups discussed results. The amount of time each canvasser spent with people varied. There were compliments on the canvass concept of getting to people and the hard work of the canvassers. Rick Storm will try to get 10-12 people in his house on Monday night in the evening to discuss other questions with Mike, and Lynn will be available to discuss the sewer.

   Group discussed need to identify and revisit people. It was finally decided that Judy would take the canvasser sheets and look at the voter registration list. She will send out information for assistance this weekend. In addition, the poll watching group will contact people on Election Day to remind them to vote and to see if anyone needs rides.

4. Finance Committee: Revised two lines in budget (Emergency Medical Budget is now $86,000), and updated the summary page, producing mill rate of 10. The sewer fee will go down each year. Discussion of how the emergency budget was adjusted to meet the concerns of the Long Island Fire Chief. We probably could buy and retrofit a rescue-boat for about $200,000.

5. Education Committee: Mike Langella emailed Jim Ryer from State Education Department to clarify tuition formula for Peaks students to use Portland Schools. No response yet.

6. Referendum Preparation:

   a. Meeting with City Clerk and Brenda: Judy discussed where poll watchers can sit and how to challenge a voter. Looking for 6 volunteers for that day. Any one can come at 8:00 to see the totals of the vote. When someone is challenged by a register voters and have a reason, everything stops in the room at the point.

   Volunteers: Mike L., Lynn R., Marjorie Ryerson, Frank, Betty, will meet at 7 p.m. on Sunday. They will discuss calling and driving people. It was discussed that we would not want to challenge votes as that may go against us; we need as many people voting as possible. After the vote result is announced at 8:30 we will all go to the Inn.

   b. Information Tables: do longer hours this weekend. 9:30-3:30 – sign up sheet going around for table in front of Hannigans.
c. Senior Lunch: Monday June 12th at noon. Chris Hoppin is speaking to the Seniors that day. Potluck lunch. Some of us should go.

d. Taxi/rides to polls: Chris is running the taxi on Tuesday. Neither side can have signs within 200 feet of polling places. IIC members should take ‘Yes’ signs down in cars when you drive to the polls, and take any ‘Yes’ button off when you come in. The poll organizers will discuss rides.

f. Weekend planning: Flyers to hand out on the boat? Opposition are mailing out postcards. We are mailing a letter, FAQ and revised budget out on tomorrow. Monday evening ride maybe around the island. Vote was taken regarding handing out flyers on the boat: all opposed, so idea was tabled.

g. Other: Group will organize phone calls on Tuesday morning remind people to vote and to arrange rides for those who need it.

2. Communications Committee: Information city has not given us, yet: should we make this public? Consensus was no, as everyone already knows they haven’t. Review of packet to go out to IIC mailing list. There was a concern about the wording of the Long Island communication issue and whether we are making them look bad. Should we include letter of apology or not? Vote: Yes: 10, No: 1. As a courtesy to the Long Islanders, Mike R will let them know about the letter. There as also concern that there were different numbers listed for emergency medical (FAQ doesn’t match letter and budget). Mike L suggested: mail out letter and revised budget, but edit FAQ to make it more positive and hand it out at the tables. Mike R will revise FAQ and send out for comment before Howard distributes it. Working Waterfront editorial by Phil Conklin is positive and should be sent out as widely as possible. Howard will forward it per our email distribution list.

3. Post-referendum planning: What should we do if and when we win? Mike R suggested we be magnanimous in victory. Meet next Thursday to discuss next steps (city council vote, Peaks meetings with city next 6 months).

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Foster
IIC Meeting Minutes
May 25, 2006

Moderator: Michael Richards

1. **Minutes**: Christina submitted the minutes for May 11, 2006. Accepted as read by consensus.


3. **Fundraising**: Another $900 is coming from Ebay this week to add to total. Still looking for more donations. SueEllen is co-chairing the committee now. Sold a total of 63 t-shirts, 22 more t-shirts are coming in and we still have 11 left for this weekend. Bob is looking into getting baseball caps that say Town of Peaks Island. Sold 8 of SueEllen's prints.

4. **Education Committee**: City's numbers for Peaks costs to send students to mainland are wrong. School pays $50,000 not $19,000 to have students transported. There is a rumor that some of the Peaks teachers may be willing to stay on rather than leave, which was their original position. We will make an effort to contact all the current city employees on the island again before the vote.

5. **Finance Issues**: The city workshop on Monday claimed: $2.2 million direct costs and $2 million administrative costs. If so, the city will save money when we leave. If someone asks, our budget numbers are based on Portland's numbers, average costs and other communities like ours. The City workshop budget was a “simulation” model. If you really want to know the answer to the finance and debt questions, vote yes and see.

   New member: Bill Zimmerman will join the committee.

   Who will run Parking Garage at Ocean Gate? Fred Forsley, who owns the Inn. He's saving 300 spots for Peaks residents.

   Council Meeting (Public Hearing) will be on June 5 in Portland. We should go and each person ask one question. We need to clarify whether our share of assets and debts is based on taxable or nontaxable property valuations. We need to delegate certain people to respond to certain things, and point out the difficulty we have communicating with the city under the current arrangement. We also need to show that Portland budget numbers keep changing.

6. **Sewer Issues**: The law does not forbid us to pay debt in sewer bill by taxes. Portland Water District – Peaks can become a member, or become an “associate” and pay higher premium. If you are a member you share in the cost of any default. In the last secession legislation, this issue was included. We could also negotiate to leave things the way things are, as the other users in the city are currently subsidizing our sewer costs. Only 3 of the 109 towns in Water District include debt in the sewer bills so we're not proposing anything exceptional. We need to address this in the next newsletter, at the June 5th meeting, and in IT to keep reiterating point. We will be eligible for grants to expand sewer system.

7. **Forecaster article responses**: Should we respond to Brenda's comments? The June
13 vote is very real, as legislature will be using this number. Need to be very careful about discussing the vote(s), since we cannot absolutely guarantee it. We can say that we will demand it, and include it in our legislation. Should we do a PR effort where we fix our mistake and repledge? Discussion of the revised pledge. We can promise to put a binding ratification vote in our legislation. We should point out that we are in the same boat as they are, and we're all working together. Community Center room open to the public for questions on June 10.

8. **Communications:** Island Times needed editorials. Mike L will write one about Education, Lynn will write on Sewer; others about Community, working together, improving quality of life, personal connections. Mike R will contact people to write if they want. Anyone who wants to write a letter should, but have someone else edit the letter.

9. **Canvass:** We need clipboards. Canvass documents will be out to Steering Committee prior to actual canvass. Training set for Wednesday at 7:30 at Judy's, canvass Saturday and Sunday.

10. **Other:**
    FUD cards contains negative comments. There was a motion to stop distributing the FUD cards, and that was seconded and passed. We need to clear things through committee before we distribute paperwork. PR Committee: meeting for newsletter on Monday.

    Respectfully submitted,

    Christina Foster
IIC Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2006

Moderator: Mike Richards

1. Minutes:
Christina Foster summarized Minutes from last week, which were accepted by consent as previously submitted.

2. Treasurer’s Report:
Judy Piawlock reported $2471.16 savings, $2166.76 checking, and $170 cash, for a total of $4807.92. From this total, $250 will be paid to Howard for the printing and mailing of the May newsletter. The report was accepted by consent.

3. Fund-raising:
Bob Stek reported that we have sold 40 T-shirts and have 10 left, making $350 profit, and we expect another $80-100 for profit when the last T-shirts are sold. Bob ordered 20 more T-shirts mostly in S and M sizes. It was suggested that we increase the order for Memorial Day and include an order of baseball hats saying “Town of Peaks Island.” Judy sold 3 of SueEllen’s paintings for $100 total. E-bay totals: March: $207, April: $435, May: $860 so far. New buttons will be out soon. We need more donations for E-bay.

4. Education Committee Report:
Mike Langella reported that his requests for 2006 budget figures from the City have had no response. He will meet Monday with Jim Ryer of the State DOE in Augusta to discuss State subsidies and budget numbers.

5. Response to IT Article/Concerns:
Should we wait until June to respond to secession opponents or respond now? We were not legally required to produce a budget yet. When we submit our bill to the legislature, we must demonstrate that Peaks can deliver services to the Islanders. Options discussed included: Rumors FAQ, Letters to the Editor, immediate newsletter, sending final packet of FAQs to our mailing list, or moving on and using the Report/Fair on the 20th to answer questions. By consensus, Communications Committee will work on consolidating the FAQ with Bob, as he has addressed this issue in his Rumors sheet. It will put in Letters to Editor in the June. We should send out an extra IIC newsletter, as June is too late for people to read and understand the issues. PR Committee will send out a special edition before then. We won’t have all islanders at the Report/Fair on the 20th, but the newsletter reaches everyone. We could attach Rumor sheet to the newsletter, or send entire final packet of the FAQ out to mailing list. Communications Committee will work on the FAQ with Bob to reduce size of FAQs to be sent.

6. Finance Committee Report:
On May 20th we will give the public a budget showing what it will cost Peaks to replace Portland’s current services. Finance Committee has calculated Town of Peaks Island’s probable mill rate at around 10 while Portland’s will be 17. The committee is already editing budget after last night’s meeting and will re-submit it to the Steering Committee. The auditor has seen the budget, but cannot
speak at meeting so will write a letter to be read on the 20th. Compliments to the Finance Committee’s hard work in doing a wonderful job.

7. Referendum Preparation

a. Voter registration:
Unregistered voters could register now or register at the time of the vote. Proof of residency and a state driver’s license or other photo ID is needed. MJ will try to get voter registration forms from the City.

b. Report and Fair preparation:
We will charge less than it costs us for the food. $1 for hotdogs, hamburgers and drinks will make it easy for people and for us. Mike R will send City Councilors and Tom Fortier invitations tomorrow. We can make and hand out smaller versions (4 on a sheet) on the boat. Mike R will draft agenda to be finalized by next meeting. Frank Peretti will present the budget, and Mike R will introduce and moderate Q&A. We’ll figure out how many copies of budget and information to make and try to keep track of who comes to the meeting, so we can get the budget to those who could not attend. How many information booths do we need? Cevia R and Bob S will work together on getting the booths ready.

c. Island canvass: Organizers will meet tomorrow night to discuss the plans.

d. Information Booth has gaps for this weekend, so please sign up.

8. PR Committee
Will meet Tuesday night 7:00 at Howard’s.

9. Other

a. Seniors meeting report: Bob and George went to meet with the Seniors. About a dozen people were there. They discussed the secession process with them.

b. Public Works rumor: that IIC wanted the Public Works jobs sent out to bid. This is not true and now they know that.

c. We should all be refer to the June 13th Referendum as the statute does: Advisory. It’s meant to move the process forward, so we can get all the information needed before we make our final vote. The ballot will say “Do you favor secession?” After the June 13th vote, the City Council votes, and then a series of meetings with the City to try to resolve the issues related to secession, then a bill is drafted and filed, then reviewed by the State and Local Government Committee, then by the entire Legislature, and then the Peaks Island binding vote. Peaks did this the last secession attempt, making the last action an Island vote on secession. The Legislature should favor a final island referendum as it will take the final decision of their hands and put it where it belongs: with the Islanders. If that vote is negative, the entire secession process stops, and we remain with the City.

d. Charles Enders informed the committee that, because Long and Chebeague are ‘rural,’ Casco Bay Lines gets a subsidy from a federal grant, but mass transit subsidy is separate from DOT money.

e. Draft agenda for next meeting: Minutes, Treasurer’s, Education, Community Meeting & Information Fair planning, and other if necessary. Committee heads will draft a 3-5 minute presentation for their tables.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Foster
Minutes of IIC Meeting
5/4/06
Moderator, Mike Richards

Announcements: Mike Richards passed out copies of Robert's Rules of Order which Mary Jane Burnette kindly provided. Frank Peretti has a VHS recording of the March 25th Public Hearing available to those interested.

I. Minutes:
Christina Foster summarized the minutes from last week. The minutes were accepted by consent as previously submitted.

I. Treasurer’s Report:
$2471.16 in savings
$2166.76 in checking
$4637.92 total

I. Fundraising:
Bob Stek reported that the Ebay auction is going well. Our Ebay sale of Russ Edwards’ home went for $760 for the week. He mentioned plans for a bottle drive and tag sale in the summer. 16 Town of Peaks Island L and XL t-shirts are left. Sue Eellen’s prints (some displayed at meeting) will be donated, available on Ebay and for raffle or auction during Peaks Fest.

I. Muskie Institute Report:
Mike R reported that Tuesday’s forum was handled well. The information book on secession in Maine that a librarian compiled can be found on display on the 2nd floor Glickman Library.

Points to address: (A) Alternative’s suggest an elected Island Council could make recommendations to Tom Fortier and/or to our City Council representative, but group felt this was inadequate since council would lack authority for spending decisions, and thus would not be much different than the current PI Neighborhood Association. (B) Ed Suslovic said that special education can be very expensive and vary year to year, but group felt we have a contingency fund in the budget for that. (C) Brenda Buchanan thought that Peaks by itself could not implement affordable housing, but Marjorie said a several other islands have done so by themselves, so it can be done. (D) Brenda fears that older people would not support the education at the elementary school upset some older people, who are only 20% of our demographic, and who tend to be very supportive of education.

I. Response to “myths”:
Bob Carey, President of the Seniors Group, asked for someone from the IIC to speak to the seniors, who meet on May 8th from 12:30-2:30. George Rosol agreed to arrange a meeting, and Bob Stek offered to help. It was suggested that we need to make a list of the arguments the opposition is putting forth.

Motion: Each of us who hear a myth make it a point to contact Judy with them so she can collect the arguments; Bob will work with Judy to make fact sheet. Discussion: Is this backpedaling? Should we just ignore? Need to get a positive message out there. We can get the message out that we care about community, school, local government. Turn their negatives into positives. Let this sit until after the Island Times? Inform ourselves only? Help with negotiation?

Vote on Motion: 21 yes, 4 no: Motion passes.

Call Judy at 2109 with info, and we’ll decide what to do with it.

I. Education:
Mike Langella will report when he has more information. Still trying to get information from the Superintendent, but she will not meet until the end of June.

Special Education: Peaks is not a high impact school for special education, 5-6 students; it’s a scare topic. Potential expense for us, but Portland is in a much more dangerous position because of the new law. Throughout the state chronic shortages of various type of teachers. Contingency funds for special ed students in the budget already. Children and seniors are a priority.

I. Finance:
They meet regularly, and numbers will be presented next week. City Council wants to know when our budget will be presented; responded that they could come on May 20th. Still waiting for figures from City; Mike asked that Finance or Subcommittee heads forward missing numbers to him. We’re looking at what it will take the Town of Peaks to run the Island with same service as we have now.

I. Referendum Preparation:...
What to call the it? We had low turn-out for forums, but larger turnouts for Reports. IIC Final Report? Summary report? It was decided to name the event the Island Independence Committee Report to the Community and Informational Fair.

Invite: City Council, Portland Legislation Delegation. 5 minutes from each subcommittee. Invite speakers from Long Island, Chebeague, someone from State Education, Green Party members from the Portland Water District, accountant who audits budget. Time: 10:00-12:00 (good for 9:30 boat) Report, 12:00-2:00 Fair.

Presentations Assignments:
Impact on Portland: Dave (shorten previous report to _ page, for handout)
Education: Mike L, maybe with Jim Reier from State.
City Council and Tom Fortier, invitations by Mike R (Voted: 16 Yes, 4 No).
Portland delegation: Christina
State and Local Committee: Christina
Long Island: Russ
Chebeague Island: Howard
Hamburgers and hotdogs: Mike L.
Childcare: Christina Foster; George will ask seniors to help.
Balloons, etc.: Lynn
Advisory/Binding Referendum/Process: Mike R
(B) Fair: need 3-sided presentation boards, committee chairs will head up their tables, Bob Stek will ask Doug to assist with the display boards.
(C) Phone/home contact: Canvassing. Strategy committee will meet with Rusty to set up contacts the first weekend in June.
(D) Information booth: The booth has been a huge success by distributing information, obtaining contacts, selling t-shirts and getting donations. Judy will order more t-shirts for the booths and the fair, including kids sizes.

I. PR Committee:
Newsletter, needs one more paragraph by Saturday morning. To be printed Monday morning, sort and mail Tuesday afternoon, mail Wednesday.
Response to IT Article/Concerns listed. First IT issue in June will have letters to the editor in response to the two sides. George will look into buying a section or adding a flyer to the paper.

I. Other:
Next meeting on Wednesday at Judy's and will not have notes as it is the budget meeting. George will moderate it in Mike R’s absence. We will still have our regularly scheduled Thursday meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Foster
1. The Peaks Island bond debt service owed to the PWD for the Waste Water Treatment System is quoted at $411,099 per year. Is this number up-to-date as of the 2005 budget year?

Yes.

2. The cost of maintaining the Peaks Island waste water system is quoted at $293,485 per year. Is this number up-to-date as of the 2005 budget year?

Yes.

3. How many Peaks Island households have access to the waste water system to date?

370

a. How many of these households are actually hooked up to the system?

277

b. Have the ones who are not hooked up been assessed any fees? If so, how many? What are the fees?

Yes, an availability charge of $1.71 per hundred cubic feet of water consumption pursuant to City ordinance. Ten customers are assessed the fee.

4. Who manages the bond indebtedness, PWD or the City of Portland?

Portland Water District

5. What is the project-by-project breakdown of the total indebtedness?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Original Amount</th>
<th>Date Issued</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Treatment Plant/Centennial Pump Station</td>
<td>$716,000</td>
<td>10/1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment Plant/Centennial Pump Station</td>
<td>$850,000</td>
<td>5/1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torrington Point Collector System</td>
<td>$1,100,000</td>
<td>10/1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryefield/Seashore Collectors</td>
<td>$2,785,000</td>
<td>10/2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Control Equipment</td>
<td>$37,100</td>
<td>8/2003</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. What is the balance of the total debt?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Treatment Plant/Centennial Pump Station</td>
<td>$250,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment Plant/Centennial Pump Station</td>
<td>$405,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torrington Point Collector System</td>
<td>$715,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryefield/Seashore Collectors</td>
<td>$2,367,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Control Equipment</td>
<td>$31,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
b. What are the terms and rates of this indebtedness?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Interest Rate</th>
<th>Maturities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Treatment Plant/Centennial Pump Station</td>
<td>6.4% to 6.6%</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment Plant/Centennial Pump Station</td>
<td>5.55% to 5.95%</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torrington Point Collector System</td>
<td>5.03% to 5.38%</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryefield/Seashore Collectors</td>
<td>2.10%</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Control Equipment</td>
<td>1.00%</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

c. Have any federal, state or private monies been provided to help pay for these projects? Yes.

d. If so, how much money?

$2,650,299 Federal and State grants received for the construction of the treatment plant.

e. If Portland Water District manages this debt, can you tell us whether this indebtedness can be refinanced to lessen the obvious burden on the small Peaks community?

The bonds were issued through the Maine Municipal Bond Bank. They have indicated that very limited options exist for refinancing and they would not significantly decrease the burden on Peaks Island residents.

f. Are there other financial liabilities that exist and are unknown but are of possible interest to the Peaks Island community?

In addition to the wastewater system debt, Peaks Island would be responsible for water system debt in the event the Water District defaulted and the new town becomes a member of the District. The 'overlapping' debt is based on assessed value and would be $228,578. Residents of non-member municipalities receiving water service from the District pay a 15% water rate differential.

6. Is there a reserve fund?

No

a. If so, who manages this fund?

Not applicable

b. How are these funds used?

Not applicable.

7. How many fire hydrants are there on Peaks Island? What does it cost to maintain these hydrants per year?

102; the fee assessed for fire protection, including fire hydrant maintenance, would be approximately $15,400. The fee is determined by a formula required by the Public Utilities Commission.
8. Would you consider the waste treatment plant is in good operational condition? What are the short-term and long-term capital improvement schedules including repair/replacement date and estimated cost?

The plant is considered to be in good condition. Capital plans include $175,000 to upgrade the plant’s telemetry to allow additional remote control and monitoring of the plant.

9. What can PWD offer in the way of operational suggestions or technical advice that may ease the cost of operation of the waste water system on Peaks Island?

Continued implementation of additional remote control and monitoring would reduce the number of visits and the visit’s duration lowering operating costs.
Minutes of IIC Meeting
4/27/06
Moderator: Mike Richards

Mike noted that The Maine Moderators’ Manual emphasized courtesy and civility during meetings, speaking to the moderator and not to each other, and refer to specific person as “my friend,” etc. Since we are not a town yet, we might not be ready for or need these strict rules, but the principles apply.

I. Minutes – There was a discussion on whether we should begin each meeting by reviewing last meeting’s minutes, with the Secretary summarizing. The group consented to this and adopted the minutes from last week unedited.

II. Treasurer’s Report – $2236.36 savings, $1600.77 checking, $149 cash, for at total of $3986.13. The group consented to adopt Treasurer’s Report.

III. Fundraising – Bob reported that we had $300 in the Paypal account from the E-bay account. Russ’s vacation cottage was at $500 on E-bay but would probably go up. Suggestion: we should see if there are any weddings or family gatherings that week. We will be selling some expensive items for a donor who will keep most of the profits, but we will get a commission. The Ebay auctions are averaging around $100/week. Suggestion that we do bottle drive, and Yard Sale during Peaks Fest.

IV. Chebeague Meeting Report – MJ reported that the Chebeague group discussed their use of the lobbyist which cost around $4800 and legal fees at $25,000. They suggested that we need a cohesive story to tell the Island and Augusta; we shouldn’t use the tax issue as the only story, but should focus on the history of the island, demographics, and use personal stories. Once the secession bill is out of the Committee, we should have someone in Augusta every day. They had a retired fisherman named Dave Stevens who became a fixture in Augusta. They used letter writing and networking to get contacts for the Legislature; these contact later assisted in by-passing Appropriations Committee, getting the bill passed obtaining education funding. We should encourage visits to the island from local and state officials. We should avoid the Appropriations Committee. If the bill is not labeled as “revenue neutral” than the state will have to pay 2/3 of the costs of secession to the city. They have decided to wait a year to become a town to give themselves time to set up and to assist us in the future.

I. School Meeting Report – Mike Langella reported out on the recent PTO meeting at the Peaks Island School which had about 30 people. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the services that the school provides and potential improvements. The Principal spoke for 20 minutes on how the school works, and then small groups discussed ways to improve the school. During the question time it was suggested that a Town of Peaks Island couldn’t replace the expertise we have from Portland. Members of the IIC responded that we could be more supportive and creative if Peaks had its own school board. For instance, in Portland all the elementary schools have to provide the exact same programs. During a budget reduction, foreign language was removed from all the schools, including Peaks. There were comments that some of the claimed services never reach people.

I. Finance Committee Report – The Committee has met with all the groups except Water and Sewer, which will occur before the next IIC meeting. We discussed the best means of presenting the budget to the group and whether it should just be the Steering Committee at first. Motion: The Finance Committee will present to the IIC the first draft of their budget for our new town on May 10th at Judy’s at 7:00 p.m. Information from this meeting will be kept confidential until the final budget is approved. Vote on motion: All in favor. FAQs must be careful about budget numbers; check with Finance Committee or don’t use them.

II. Referendum Preparation – The group discussed various ideas of reaching people: forum, fair and canvass by phone on in person. Strategy Committee recommends presenting the budget as a report to the community before the vote. Budget would be in outline form, and we would hand out a booklet with the entire budget and FAQs in a 2 hour weekend meeting. Before that meeting there could be a phone canvass. The Saturday before the election could be the Information Fair. There was much discussion on the best date and venue to provide this information. There was concern that the weekend before the vote would be too late for the Fair, and that we needed time to respond to criticism on the budget. There was a suggestion we call the forum a Mock Town
Meeting. The group decided combining the report and fair would be the best option; IIC would invite reps from Long and Chebeague, local legislators, members of the State and Local Committee, and city councilors. We should have "Ask IIC" forms for concerns that could be answered. People will ask general questions at the Fair. We expect a good turn out.

First Motion: May 20th for budget report, then break into small groups to solicit concerns at small tables to informally follow up on presentations; the formal part of the proceedings would include someone from Long and Chebeague. Discussion: large groups are good since everyone can hear responses. Amendment: remain large group. Amendment: large group 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the School, and then 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Lion's Club, or break into small groups, with food provided at lunch. Comment: same location for convenience, instead of small groups allow them to go their specific tables. Amendment: Presentation of IIC Report in morning, followed by Information Fair in the afternoon.

Final Proposal: On May 20th the IIC will make a formal presentation of the report in the morning, with an informational fair following the report. We will use the entire Lion's Club grounds and building, and provide food and daycare. Discussion: Q&A after formal presentation for more general questions. Vote: all in favor. Who will organize? Planning will be on the next agenda.

1. Other — a. Ask Me About Island Independence: a weekend information booth to hand out information. Bob and other volunteers will distribute FAQ, sell t-shirts, solicit concerns and connect with people. Motion: Bob and Lynn (and other volunteers) will work at a table by the bulletin board Down Front with fact sheets to distribute and gather information every weekend starting this Saturday. Discussion: Pass out buttons for free, if more are made. We need sign-up sheet for volunteers. Bob will still do one information booth in Portland. Vote: All in favor. Coordinated after meeting.

b. Canvass information. Christina handed out information on Rusty's proposal for a door to door canvass. The canvass would reach all registered voters. Canvassers would pass out information, answer questions and poll participants on the vote. The group will consider this week and vote on approval next week. Russ recommended that those who recommended these type of proposals should chair subcommittees to implement.

c. PR: Newsletter: Send Lynne ideas or draft articles. Ideas: parking, PTO meeting, write-up of Muskie Forum, mil rates for city, PR group will get together. What the vote is and what it is not.

d. Response to Action Plan: Suggestion that we forward the Action Plan to other Neighborhood Associations to generate calls from mainland to City Council to let us go. Will not cost city anything to let us go. Lynne will circulate her email before sending out.

Note: the Circuit Breaker is not very inclusive, and will reduce tax revenue and will increase taxes for others.

e. Island Times article: large article on statute will be in next edition, Mike is looking for feedback for his piece. Should we consider putting another name on the by-line? Mike will determine whether to add a petition signer (Eunice or Chuck) or someone from the Communications Committee such as Howard.

Motion to adjourn was seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Foster
Minutes: IIC Meeting
April 20, 2006
Peaks Island Community Center

Moderator: Mike Richards

I. Minutes: The minutes were approved from the last three sets of meetings on March 13, April 6, and April 13. No minutes were taken during March 23 meeting as it was only preparation for March 25 public hearing.

II. Treasurer/Fundraising: $2236.36 savings, $1600.77 checking, $58 cash. Russ will talk to attorney on Monday morning to discuss our billing. Any kind of large dispersion of money will need to be approved by the group. Russ thinks we will need to raise the money to pay him if necessary.

We have 24 t-shirts left, mostly L and XL. E-bay auctions: $448 grossed, $369 netted. As of Sunday we will get an additional $246=$600 total.

I. Response to City ‘Action Plan’:
Need to respond point by point on the items from the City Council list. Although it was addressed briefly in the last newsletter, it was decided further explanation is needed. The Communications Committee will accept ideas to respond to points from the workshop to add to newsletter. They will meet on Sunday to work on something so get information to Howard before then. We need to clarify the difference between proposed and promised ideas from the City.

I. Finance Committee:
a) We discussed when to release the proposed town budget. Some felt we should release as soon as the Finance Committee finishes, the IIC approves, and an auditor has reviewed, as it would allow us to follow through on our promise to the islanders and give us time to respond to criticisms. This could be as early as mid-May. Others felt we should wait until the May Information Fair or closer to the vote, since it will be picked apart. We will continue to discuss this.

b) What information is missing to complete the budget? The committee still needs to meet with a few committee chairs (Mike L, George and Jeff). First draft should be completed around May 1, but then the committee must review and the auditor needs a few days to review.

c) City Council presented the June 13th vote on Peaks as the final vote, but we need to communicate that it is advisory by statute, and the legislation will provide for a binding referendum at the end of the entire process.

I. IIC Fair/Preparation for Island Referendum:
Suggestion was to hold an information fair at the Lion’s Club with information booths, and to invite someone from Long and Chebeague Islands as guest speaker.
Another idea was a general forum.
Russ would like to discuss this with the Political Strategy Subcommittee and then recommend to this committee. PS will meet prior to next meeting. Mike Langella will tentatively reserve May 20 and June 3 for the fair just in case, as approved by the group. Rent and grounds/hall $400 for entire day. Slightly less just for the hall.

I. Response to City decision to not have a city referendum:
Secession statute says the city has the option of holding a city referendum, but if they choose to hold one, it has to be held at the “same time” as the island vote, so a city referendum on secession in November would not be legal. There may be pressure to allow Portland to vote. The sequence of events are: our referendum, then City Council votes, the negotiations, then legislature, then binding referendum.

I. Update on Muskie School Forum:
May 2, 6:00 reception, 7:00 panel. No city representative at this time. Tom Fortier backed out, and no one was willing to step in. Christina will send us an attachment and post around ferry terminal.

I. Tape of our Public Hearing:
A copy will be at the Library once we get it from cable TV. Mike R will request tape again, as they promised.

1. By-laws:
   Table subject until Linda gets back. Moved and approved.

10. Parking:
   City's new parking info sheet is up at the ferry terminal. It is incomplete and only lists temporary parking. Bob Steck has suggested updating the list to include all parking and handing that out with his other information.

11. Other:
   We have Community Center room reserved every Thursday from April 27 through June 8. There was a suggestion for the ebay auctions that someone donates a cottage for a week or weekend. Committee members could clean before and afterwards. Russ volunteered his house for a week in July.
Meeting Minutes
Peaks Island Independence Committee
April 6, 2006

Moderator, Michael Richards

Minutes of previous meeting(s) will be approved next meeting, by consensus.

Treasurer's Report. Judy Piawlock reports a balance from all sources of $3704.95. Approved by consensus

Lobbyist. Bill from attorney shows services, but hourly rate and time spent on each item is not disclosed. Russ Edwards will follow up with attorney. Michael reports that some time was spent by attorneys in fact finding, attending meetings, and traveling, in order to become familiar with the case. By consensus, Russ will instruct attorneys that further services be delayed until after the new legislature is sworn in next fall.

Fund Raising. Robert Stek reports net earnings of $207 from the recent e-Bay auction. No items remain to be sold. Request made for more quality items. New signage is on the bulletin boards and a link is to be placed on the IIC e-mail list. T-shirts are for sale at the Café and on e-Bay. Buttons are giveaways with purchase of shirts. Thanks to all who contributed to the last auction. Sue Ellen Roberts offered 25 prints of her art for the next go-around. Lynne Richard was thanked for use of button maker.

Finance Forum. City Council was told that IIC would have an initial budget ready by the end of April. There is no legal requirement that the City be given this information. Animated discussion revolved around use of island expenditures reported by the City, which did not cover school, governance, county tax, library, and building insurance costs. Discussion of whether IIC should use all-inclusive numbers which are higher. Frank
Peretti was asked to serve on the finance committee because of his long experience in financial planning. A deadline for the budget will be set for sometime before June 1. It was decided that our budget will present known costs, along with footnotes showing estimated costs and items that would require a Town Meeting vote.

**March 25th Public Hearing Items.** Mike Richards reports Joe Gray, city manager, seems unsatisfied with IIC tax-impact statement. In spite of that, and of moderator’s comments at March 25 meeting, the secession statute requires that we consider only the tax impact on Peaks and Portland, not the “full (emotional) impact” on both locations, as stated at the hearing and by Mr. Gray. IIC believes its impact statement meets and exceeds the letter of the law.

**Other Discussion Items.**
1. Homeowners’ insurance costs are not expected to be changed by secession as feared by some of the opposition. Mary Jane Burnett, an insurance professional, reports that the only thing that can affect them is downgrading of properties on insurance underwriting criteria. This is not likely. Charges are already established on the basis of a split rating of 5 and 9. (The lower number indicates lower risk, where hydrants are closer.)
2. Jim Ryer of the State Education Dept. wishes to come to Peaks to discuss education subsidies. This is encouraged and should be done before the June vote. Portland stands to gain about $1.7 million if Peaks leaves the Portland school system. Mike Langella will seek an agreement from Supt. O’Connor on the $7200 per student cost limit set by the State. Other school options include Falmouth and South Portland. Mike will address this issue
with Portland and the neighboring towns in the next two weeks.

3. Concern for sewer cost is a festering issue. The various plans that would be presented at Town Meeting were given in the forum and printed in the newsletter. They will be reported once more on a FAQ sheet.

**City Workshop Items.** What alternatives will satisfy the Island? There is no alternative to having control of funds. City can’t discriminate on parking privileges if Peaks secedes.

**Fear Factors.** Linda Capone lists the fears that most people address to her. They are school, insurance, parking and sewer. Consistency in providing answers is critical, she claims. Fact sheets should be made available answering these questions.

**Credible Budget.** Russ Edwards believes that our budget must be examined by a professional accountant at least two weeks before the June election.

**FAQ sheets.** Present suggestions and discuss next meeting, April 13.

**Advisory Referendum.** City will hold one on Peaks and may also have one in Portland. Michael Richards presented Tom Bohan’s suggestion to publicly state that our independence efforts will continue only if a 60% majority of those voting on the island favor secession. The statute states that only 51% is needed to go forward. It was the general feeling of the IIC that the 60% idea not be pursued. Also, the only way the referendum can be avoided is if 3 of the 5 members of the five representatives formally
withdraw their support. The 5 representatives will meet ASAP and determine whether to confirm their commitment to the referendum.

Public Relations. Newsletter will be assembled at Judy Piawlock’s home this coming Monday at 3 p.m. Discussion of the Monument Square Island Independence Facts Table concluded that Wednesdays would be best because of the farmers’ market crowd. Contact of “207” program and asking Mary Mayo for additional help will be pursued.

Political Strategy Sub-Committee Report. None, aside from all above.

A videotape of the March 25th public hearing is supposed to available from Ch 2 but hasn’t been received yet.

Next week’s meeting, Thursday, April 13, at Community Center at 7 p.m. Michael Richards will moderate.
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

George L. Rosol
Island Independence Committee  
Thursday, March 2, 2006  

Moderator: Lynne Richard  

I. Welcome, Introductions  

II. Minutes of Feb. 16 meeting were accepted.  

III. Treasurer's report  

$659 in checking, $2236.69 savings, $50 cash  
Last week received another $710 in donations.  
Reimbursed Mike Richards $179 for books, Local Government in Maine.  
Need to pay post office; Art printed labels for free.  

I. Committee Reports  

Communications  

Newsletter will be finished today after scheduling has been decided.  
Print Saturday, fold and stuff on Sunday afternoon at 4:00 at Judy's house.  

There was a meeting on Tuesday night about Taxes from the Peaks Island Today and Tomorrow  
meeting last month. Dave updated the group on the meeting: making tax base more equitable all  
around. a) homestead exemption by April 1, b) circuit breaker forms available in library. Homestead  
exemption $13,000 off of valuation as long as your primary resident is in the city. This is due by  
March 31. Next meeting, Tuesday March 14. Tom Fortier will have a day in the community center on  
a Saturday to fill out forms.  

Affordable housing committee met: came from housing subcommittee from Peaks Island Today and Tomorrow  
meeting; 5 topics were discussed and they got recruits for every project; report out in a few  
weeks. Example: Habitat Humanity will come to next meeting in 4 weeks or so. Homestart nonprofit  
formed to promote affordable housing on the island is currently working.  

Business Group meeting on Wednesday; next meeting first Wednesday in April, any business can be  
listed in the new directory  

Environmental Group meeting next Wed.  

Bangor Daily News interviewed Judy and Howard; copies of the article were passed around.  

Land Use Forum Report  

Art did a great job of the forum; so much information on the island  
Copy of his report is in the library  

Waste Water Treatment Forum report  

Described the Portland Water District and facilities on the island, and then we discussed costs to Peaks  
if we secede. $400,000 in debt, plus $210,000 operation and maintenance every year. Big question  
how we would distribute cost was part of the discussion. Possibility of dumping private septic  
systems; might not be possible but people are talking.  

Public Works  

George, Art and Jeff met with Bob Cook, the Fleet and Island Services Manager for the City, and the  
public works employees. Primary topics: concerns of the employees (wages and benefits), a good  
number would consider staying with Peaks as long as we can exceed wages and benefits that they get  
now. The city right now pays between 30-40% of their wages in benefits. Otherwise they might stay  
with the City and there would be positions available in Portland for them.  

Maine Municipal Association could provide benefit packages if we joined. Cohesive group; seemed  
like they enjoyed what they do and were mostly island residents.  
Discussed their day to day work: trash, recycling, storm damage, road repair, plowing, individual  
requests, on call 24 hours a day. Peaks serves as a primary service center for other islands for
equipment but not trash.

Transfer stations collect 700 tons in blue bags, 300 yard containers in recycled materials, and another 100 40 yard containers of larger trash. New laws being passed that require more heavily processing the recycled materials will mean need another building and additional staff costs. We are eligible for matching grants for the building. The income from the blue bags ($30-$35,000) doesn't pay for the entire expense of trash ($80,000). Right now we can get equipment loaned from the city if one of ours goes down. We can look at more creative solutions (lease from company, plows on garbage trucks, etc.). Problem with charging recycling; people drop off at night.

Finance

Dave and Howard are putting together a budget for the 1st year; we know what the revenue is going to be but need to firm up numbers for the expenses. We do not need to have a budget for the Public Hearing, which is to discuss problems, alternatives that there may be, impact of secession on island and the city taxes. We need to have a proposed budget before the vote in June. Sid Gerard's City of Portland Property Tax Review was distributed and will discuss next time. We will need a meeting exclusively for the budget. Trying to figure out what other income we will have, like excise tax. Dave has the number of registered vehicles so we can get excise tax information.

Fundraising

Put up posters around for donations. We have 12 items so far; will keep things on for a week. Auctions will start March 12. Could try to get a press release and get some publicity.

5. Public Forum Dates (IIC at Community Center)

Governance, Public Safety on March 11, from 10 a.m. -12 p.m.
Public Works, Public Services (Social service, child development, parks and recreation, and library) March 18, from 10 a.m. -12 p.m.
IIC Finance Forum will be in April
City will hold a forum in school on Thursday, March 9 at 7:30 p.m. for non-emergency services, such as school, public works, etc. Tom Fortier will moderate. The purpose is to describe services that the city gives to the island.

City will hold another form on March 15 at 7:30 p.m., at which Mayor and Tom will discuss emergency services, such as police, fire, and rescue.

6. Public Hearing:

City wants to schedule it for Saturday, March 25, at 9 a.m. at the school. The group decided to not contest the city's date. We will ask for 2 hours to make our presentation. People can take 5 - 10 minutes each to give their view of problems and why we want to govern ourselves. Each person should focus on particular area that is their principle concern. Mike will have a list and contacts; prepare remarks and send to Mike. Try to focus on self-governance instead of seceding. There was a comment that we should ask questions from Peaks Island Today and Tomorrow and from the neighborhood plan. We will need a formal written report on tax impact. Invite other people; 20 speakers in all from IIC. Open up after that for anyone to speak on either side. Residents and nonresidents can speak.

7. Neighborhood Plan

The original intent of document was to serve as the foundation of what Peaks Island wants to be. It's a really good start, and we can go from there. We should make a checklist from it. PINA website has both the full plan and a shortened version.

Village corporations are designed to address singular problems (e.g., public services, school, transportation).

1. Other

We will start meeting every week. Wednesday March 8 regular meeting to avoid conflicting with City forum Thursday March 9.

The newsletter will have the dates of our forums and the Public Hearing. There was discussion on
emailing state representative the newsletter. It was decided to first email an introduction and ask if they would like to receive a newsletter. We can start contacting them as we get closer to introducing legislation.

May 2nd is set for Muskie School Forum on Self-Governance in Maine.

Any ideas for Governance forum next week please let Mary Jane know.

George Rosol will moderate next week.
Whereas the Maine State Legislature requires a tax analysis to ensure that Peaks Island can secede from the City of Portland and govern itself without causing undue financial detriment to the citizens of either Portland or Peaks Island, the Financial Sub-Committee of the Peaks Island Independence Committee (hereinafter “ITC”), pursuant to 30-A MRSA §2171-C (2), hereby submits the follow tax-impact report to the Portland City Council. The figures presented are our best current estimates based on data that has been provided to the IIC by the State of Maine and the City of Portland.

Portland is Maine’s business, financial and retail capital and the biggest city in the state, with 65,000 residents. By contrast, Peaks Island is a small island with fewer than 1,000 year-round residents. This enormous difference in size between Peaks Island and Portland creates a correspondingly enormous difference in the impact of secession on taxes in each location.

According to Portland’s Municipal budget of 2005/06, Portland collects annually about $115 million in property taxes, and has an annual school and municipal budget of about $208 million. Revenues other that Real Estate taxes make up the difference.

When the recent property revaluations are fully implemented, Peaks will contribute about $4.9 million in property taxes, and Peaks will receive about $2.4 million in services, providing Portland with a surplus of $2.5 million annually. This $2.5 million represents only about 1.2% of the city’s annual budget. By contrast, this same $2.5 million represents about 50% of Peaks Island’s future annual property tax payment to the city, and about 100% of the Town of Peaks Island’s projected annual budget.

After Peaks Island secedes; Portland will no longer be required to pay for Peaks Island’s services. In addition, Portland’s school-funding revenue-sharing from the State is likely to increase by approximately $1.6 million. Finally, Peaks Island will pay approximately $400,000 to Portland for the tuition of Peaks Island’s 50 junior high and high school students, if Portland accepts them. Therefore, Peaks Island’s secession is likely to provide additional funding for Portland which will largely offset the tax income that Portland otherwise would have received from Peaks Island, such that Peaks’ secession will not materially affect Portland’s property taxes or financial security. Indeed, given Portland’s great financial reserves, it need not hurt Portland at all.
As part of the secession process, Peaks Island must assume its fair share of Portland’s liabilities and is entitled to its fair share of Portland’s assets. According to Portland’s 2005 annual financial report, Portland has assets of $567 million and liabilities of $330 million, leaving it with net assets of $237 million. Peaks Island represents about 3.5% of Portland’s property tax base. After consideration of BOTH assets and liabilities, therefore, Peaks Island will be entitled to 3.5% of Portland’s net assets, or about $8.3 million.

Portland estimates its assets on Peaks Island to be about $10.8 million. If this estimate is accurate, and if Portland keeps all of its assets on the mainland and Peaks Island keeps all those assets on the Island, Peaks Island will be required to pay Portland about $2.5 million. If this amount is paid over five years, plus interest, Peaks Island’s initial budget will be about $3 million.

Thus, although secession of Peaks Island from Portland will have a minimal negative tax impact on Portland, it will have a significant positive impact on Peaks Island. Peaks Islanders will be able to organize and focus both their individual and their combined financial resources on resolving their unique local problems, such as parking and transportation, services and safety, environment and recreation. They then can take an active role in managing the changes within their community that are currently imposed from without, preserving and protecting their uniquely diverse island culture.

“Taxation without representation” was the call that started the American Revolution, but it produced, after long deliberation and sole searching, the Declaration of Independence, which recognized that people have the natural and inherent right to govern themselves. Similarly, the Peaks movement has naturally expanded to include not only the protection of islanders from the burden of high taxes but also the preservation of the community by the benefit of controlled spending. These worthy goals can only be achieved by Peaks Island governing itself and determining for itself what it needs to preserve the viability of the community and enhance the quality of life of its citizens.

As Peaks Island can best collect and spend its own local taxes, and can do so without hurting Portland, Peaks Island should be allowed to govern itself, if it ultimately chooses to do so. We appreciate your careful consideration of this report and of our need for independent self-determination.

Respectfully submitted,

David Adams
Financial Sub-Committee
Island Independence Committee
Island Independence Committee Meeting  
Thursday, February 16, 2006

Moderator: Mike Langella

I. Minutes accepted as amended.

II. Treasurer's Report - $2226 in savings, $659 in checking, $50 cash. $615.53 went to Howard for bulk mailing permit ($325), printing and mailing of last newsletter. $100 in donations, need to pay $11 for checks, and post office box rental $37. Total $2945.83. The group voted to accept the Treasurer's Report.

III. Review of meeting rules
Stay on topic
Use "I" statements
Listen actively
Ask clarifying questions
Maintain positive intentionality

I. Proposal of two new meeting roles. Timekeeper and process observer. Timekeeper to keep track of agenda and keeping an eye on our time. Bob Steck volunteered. Process observer, not active involved but are looking and watching other behavior and will report out. Sarah Hennessy volunteered.

II. The group did a "whip" to make quick observations about Saturday's meeting at the Elementary School. The following were observations made by IIC members:
A lot of agreement over issues
All views were heard
Information was put forward
Unity in intention to preserve community
People are still looking for how we would gain from seceding.
Respect for others ideas meant we could run a nice town
Agreement for goals of island between 2 different type of people
Things we want to preserve and dream about doing
All factions represented except the old families and tradespeople
Positive attitude and universal issues
Housing subcommittee had potential volunteers
No clear goal
The same issues came up that always come up with; nothing new
Unity in group on agreeing on issues but didn't get to how to solve the problem
Positive attitudes towards community and rural quality
Universal perception that we have a strong community
Agreement on the what but tension on how

I. Public Relations Report
Met twice since last meeting. Good feedback from first newsletter, next one out before first of March. Please contact Howard if you have specific ideas.
Committees should provide input to the public relations; 1 paragraph by early next week. Marjorie will submit Information on affordable housing or social services.

I. Discussion of reasons for secession
Reviewed work from last week and broke into 3 groups to refine those ideas. The goal was to end up with full sentences.

Group 1
Taxation without representation-- the form of city government in Portland with 4 councilors at large makes it difficult to be represented
Peaks Island has different concerns and needs than the other neighborhoods in Portland
City rules do not match Peaks Island needs
Controlling our finances allows us to control and pay for our priorities
The smaller the government, the more efficient and more accountable
In order to retain and maintain the diversity of our community we must have affordable taxes, housing and retain the elementary school, no matter how many students. At town meetings, people will disagree on issues but agree to debate issues; they are very effective to make changes and empower voters.

**Group 2**

Independence is the only reliable and permanent hope to achieve our community’s needs and goals. We want direct fiscal control over our services. This is the cornerstone of the island structure.

**Group 3**

Preserve rural character and manage change
Local decisions, accountable leaders, involvement, cohesion
Affordable housing, families w/kids, inlaw apartments, apartments
Control taxes and mill rate, and we set spending priorities

1. Discussion of by-laws draft.
   Give any suggestions to Howard, and committee will modify for next meeting.
   There was some discussion on the steering committee which, as written, would only include officers and committee chairs. While including others would make it more cumbersome, it would be more representative. Also, there are people very involved who are not a committee chair. Mike Richards will send out his answer to questions to begin discussion. Deadline publish by end of March.

1. Other business
   Moderate next meetings; Lynne Richard for 3/2/2006
   PITA; next week Winter Carnival; Howard asked for volunteers
   Fundraising- Bob Steck distributed draft of forms for auctioning items. Quilt will be raffled, 25% to PITA, rest for IIC; let Judy know if you are going to be at event to assist in selling raffle tickets
   Local Government in Maine; published by State of Maine on the Maine website everyone can read; Mike R will make 20 copies.
   Self-governance in Maine panel discussion at USM; the group voted to move forward with this idea.
   Forum on land use and sewage on Sat. February 25th 10 a.m to noon. We will need to publicize soon; March 11th forum on Public works and Governance. Will organize rest later.
   Doug McVane read his thought-provoking letter about what the island was like in the 1930’s and whether secession will bring more entrepenuers while maintaining the island spirit.
   Lobbyist and function? We have hired Preti Flaherty firm as legal experts. Associate Ann Robinson is doing most of work now. She will not attending IIC meetings unless we request her to do so. As we pay by the hour, she will only come to really important meetings. Lobbying will come later in our process when we go to the legislature.

10. Observations of meeting:
   People were paying attention and listening to each other,
   Mike L did an excellent job in moving topic to topic by asking for last questions.
   There was a comment that it was helpful to have diversity in our meetings, with people who are not necessarily pro-secession because they can point out issues we need to consider.
Acceptance of minutes with corrections.

I. Treasurer's Report

$1175 in the checking

$2236.03 in savings

$50 cash

Total: $3461.03

I. Meeting rules

Mike Langella recommended that we focus on the rules listed in the agenda:

Stay on topic

Use I statements when speaking

Actively listen

Ask clarifying questions

Maintain positive intentionally

3. Committee Chair Reports

A. Land Use Committee

Information was gathered from: maps from the City of Portland, State information, and the Peaks Information Exchange to get the topography of the island.

Neighborhood plan developed in 2004 by island was useful. The latest city tax assessor data provided land use information. This could change year to year. We receive updates from the assessor and the projected 2007 assessment which allows us to look at trends.

Lacking the following information: Pumpkin Knob, House Island and Catnip's topography, water run off point, waste disposal sites, and historical population trends.

Since House Island is within our secession request the owner will look to us for services: fire, waste removal, water, etc.

B. Public Safety/Fire (Betty reported)

Budget: $34,000 for all islands. 1994 budget for Peaks Island $54,000 which does not include the Marine division.
Peaks (according to population) is 83% of the $34,000.

For contractional services, rentals, supplies, utilities totals: $28,600.26

The committee proposes the following: Part-time fire chief possibly $20,000/year.
Allowances for volunteers $15,000, utilities $7500, training $5,000, maintenance $3000, capital fund $25,000,
equipment repair $20,000 = $120,000. A mooring’s cost is $2000.

Long Island budgets $85,000 for fire department.

If the actual charge is $750/per trip we could pay for new emergency boat over a 4-5 year period. Last year we
had 83 runs. $580,000 is 83% of the marine division.

We do not always have cross-trained fire people on the island at the moment.

The City does not break off specific costs from the marine division.

Need to include: depreciation of current value of our equipment

C. Public Works

Overview of dollar amounts: employees 7 full-time and 1 part-time, $327,500 for FY05. FY06 will be
$346,347

Additional costs: solid waste disposal, road and street light maintenance Total: $601,500 FY05. For FY 05
$602,400.

There are alternatives to the current public works organization. Long Island has a different scheme for public
works.

Discussed with the state about getting benefits for staff. We could buy from the state as long as we are part of
the Maine Municipal Association which has minimum fees.

Will soon be gathering information on the price for solid waste disposal if managed by private contractors.

No one from the committee has spoken with public works staff, but will shortly.

We are having things barged onto Peaks to be compacted, and this could potentially be a revenue source for us.

Long Island property prices: costs them $1 million dollars a year to run the town and its been the same budget
for a number of years. Long is in the process of doing a reevaluation. House evaluations are at 40% of house
sales. They will reduce mill rates rather than increase their revenue.

D. Finance

Based on next year's evaluation Peaks will have an income around $5 million.

Based on Portland's numbers they spend around $2.4-3.5/year to run the island. Getting the real numbers will
difficult.

If the public hearing is in April the Finance committee needs final numbers from the other committees by
March 1 or 30 days before hearing. We need firm numbers; the finance committee will help other committees
if they need assistance.

The impact on the City budget seems to be negligible.
Portland just received $1.7 million in education funding from the State. We are entitled 3.3% of that.

E. Public Relationships

The new newsletter was distributed for viewing.

The committee will mail out our newsletters to those who do not have email, or display the newsletter in public places.

The taxpayer list contains 805 addresses, half of which are summer people.

Howard obtained a batch mailing number from the Post Office so we can mail for $.23/newsletter. The batch mailing license costs us $320/year.

F. Governance

Meeting with Maine Municipal Association to discuss their services and possible assistance to us in the process and if we become a town.

There was a request to ask for information on typical town size and administrative costs. This type of information should also be available in town reports.

The MMA publishes manuals and provides training during the year that could be helpful to us.

The MSMA provides similar services to local school boards.

G. Education

The committee is refining information after the first forum. For example, there are 17 students in private not 10. Cynthia Cole is researching this.

Mike will be sending the principal and superintendent a list of questions to clarify numbers.

Mike will be meeting with Nancy Jordan from Long Island to discuss her perspective on the secession. He also is trying to talk to Carol White of Chebaque about sharing services and costs.

If we become a town and the current teachers remain, they will lose their seniority in the Portland School System.

H. Fundraising

Brainstormed with Mary Mayo about fundraising.

Announced new chair, Bob Stek.

One idea: islanders can donate items that they would sell at a tag sale and Bob would sell them on eBay. Proceeds going to the IIC. He would manage, but wants to find out the legality issues. Mike R will ask the Ethics Commission (might be a while).

The committee donated a quilt to the Winter Carnival, and some proceeds will go the IIC.
1. Public Hearing discussion

Public hearing presentation will include a prepared written document.

One person after another will talk 5-10 minutes about particular problems on Peaks (no repetition). The object is to identify problems, break down into subparts (ex. Not a neighborhood of city, disenfranchisement) and conclude that there are no obvious solutions.

It was decided that we will schedule the rest of the forums rather than waiting for the City to set dates. Once dates are established we can invite City representatives. The committee chairs will be contacted for available dates.

6. Other

The IIC was asked to participate in PITA's Winter Carnival. We are hosting the basketball night and assisting with a few other events. Howard Pedlikan asked for volunteers.

The draft by-laws were distributed. Please forward comments to Howard by next meeting.

Christina Foster proposed the IIC participates in panel discussion on self-governance at the USM Libraries end of April/early May. The panel will be moderated by Mark Lapping and other Muske School professors will participate. As the topic will be about the advantages of disadvantages of self-governing there was on whether it would help our cause. Will vote on in 2 weeks.

It was proposed that we should meet weekly rather by byweekly. Discuss in 2 weeks.

7. Reflections

Mike asked if we followed the rules and whether they were helpful. It was discussed that the rules were followed (we need to work on the time issue) and that this was an organized way of running the meeting.

Responses from groups on why Peaks Island should secede

coup 1

Taxation without Representation

Self-governance allows islanders to be closer to the government and to better participate in the government.

Scale of needs different for island than city.
Better promote diversity (ex. Seniors, affordable housing)

Environmental concerns better addressed locally

Control of mil rate

Group 2

Better financial control of our community

Taking control of our future

Reasonable tax rates to maintain island community

Control of public services

Improving education for island children, while making facilities more available to community

Town meetings are a positive way of governing

Group 3

I. Preserve character and integrity of island.
   A. Building codes and zones
   B. Green space

2. Local Decision Making
   A. Leaders accountable
   B. Increase participation and cohesiveness

3. Affordable Housing
   A. Families
   B. Seniors

4. Taxes
   A. Mill rate
   B. Spending on our priorities
Who Will Run the Town of Peaks Island?

You Will!

Should Peaks Island secede from Portland, the form of government and elected officials would be decided by the residents of Peaks Island at a community meeting.

There are two forms of government in Maine – direct, such as selectmen, and representational, such as council. Representational is what we currently have as part of the City of Portland. The councilors are elected by the voters and represent the residents making decisions on their behalf.

Direct government, through the Town Meeting format, is what the majority of smaller Maine communities elect. Selectmen and other elected officials are voted for at an annual Town Meeting. Additional positions can be appointed by the selectmen or filled by volunteers. Islanders may decide to hire, on a short-term basis or longer, a town manager or contract with others for certain professional or regulatory responsibilities. The voters also determine the town’s annual budget, ordinances and address other issues of concern to the community.

Direct government would be an opportunity for meaningful participation and community involvement. Islanders will run the Island and address the issues that are of concern to Peaks Island.

Town Meetings are covered in local papers starting in the next few weeks. Read them and you might be surprised at how much we have in common with other communities.

mj 1.31.06
Island Independence Committee Minutes  
January 19, 2006  
Moderator: Mike Richards  
Recorder: Linda Capone-Newton

Mike R began with a statement about a personal need to step back from the hub of the committee, so that space would be created for others to step forward to fill. He discussed some of the functions that he currently does for the group: primary spokesperson, hub through which discussion and action revolves, vetting of minutes, taker of irate phone calls, etc. Mike urged those around the table this evening (and others not in attendance) to consider how they might assume some of these tasks. There was recognition from the group of Mike's need to step back and the need for members of the organization to step forward.

Minutes:  
Minutes of meetings in December were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's report:  
Judy Piawlock reported $346.16 in checking after expenses paid to the IIC attorney of $4000. Mike discussed meeting with Atty Beliveau. Due to Atty Beliveau's long career in Maine and the variety of clients he has served during that career there have been comments made regarding this choice as the organization's attorney. Mike reminded the group that "We are the client and therefore are in control of what is done," and that legal representation is important for the IIC.

Communications:  
Howard Pedlikin reported that "lessons have been learned from the publication of the first newsletter." The newsletter has been widely distributed and a copy is included in the new area upstairs in the Peaks Library that has the documentation regarding the IIC work. Future newsletters will be 2 pages long, front and back. Howard would like a short paragraph from each committee discussing the task(s) they are working on. These submissions should be emailed to Howard as soon as possible. Howard also reminded the group about how important By-Laws are and the need to move ahead on their creation. Howard, Cevia, Linda and Judy will endeavor to move this task to completion in the next two weeks.

The group also discussed the continuing issue of the difference between the number of voters listed on the official City of Portland voter list and what islanders have confirmed as the number of current voters on the island (the difference being those voters who have moved away, voters who have newly registered and do not appear on the list, voters who have died as well as some long term voters who do not appear on the list). Mike R. told the group he had provided a press release regarding this issue to the press when the petitions
were originally presented to the city with no response from the press. Howard and Judy distributed to the group another draft press release, and the group discussed the pros and cons of the distribution of it and a consensus was reached not to issue a press release at this time but to await the city clerk's announcement of verification, the deadline for which is Feb. 5.

**PITA Winter Carnival**
Howard shared information about the events planned by the Peaks Island Tax Assistance committee (PITA) during school vacation week Feb. 17-21. PITA would appreciate help with the many events planned. This is also an opportunity for community groups to have events that provide a fund-raising opportunity.

**Web Site**
Concerns were raised regarding navigation and posting of information on the "self determination for us" web site that IIC has been attempting to use to disseminate information about the IIC. Howard will meet with the site's web masters to discuss the challenges. The consensus of the group was that other web resources maybe needed in order to provide the public and the IIC membership with an easily navigated, informative web site.

Mike R. also raised the issues of how to decide "who gets what" via email. This is an issue that the group needs to be aware of --- email can be a deceptively simple way to provide information to a large number of people. The organization needs to "refine" its email lists to better ensure messages get to those most involved in particular issues.

**Fund Raising**
The Fund Raising committee is currently without a chair because Jane B had to withdraw as chair due to an employment conflict and Mary Mayo has been very busy with new job responsibilities. Mike R. reaffirmed the IIC's need for an active fundraising committee. Sue Ellen Begley a member of the committee said that she was not able to chair the group but is willing to call people who have expressed an interest and report to the next IIC meeting Feb. 2, 2006.

**Education Forum**
The IIC held its first public forum on Jan. 12. Mike Langella summarized the forum. Sixty four people attended, and information was presented on the costs of funding the current level and format of services for education on the island. The forum succeeded in providing a venue for discussion about education, and the development of a working relationship with the Portland sup't and with the island school principal for information sharing. The forum also heard the surprise announcement by the school principal that in the event of independence the education staff would resign and not work for the Town of Peaks Island. There
was a lot of conversation about the reasons behind the resignation statement. Many of the group in attendance expressed their appreciation for the work that Mike and Lynne Richard did to bring this information to the community.

For future forums, Mike L. suggested that publicity clarify the purpose of the forums. For purposes of comparison, the IIC remains committed to providing information at the forums about the cost of continuing services that Peaks currently receives from the city. The vision of what an independent town of Peaks Island might choose for services remains to be articulated and should be articulated by those legally empowered to do so with the advice of the community after independence and the establishment of governmental entities. The need for all “stakeholders” to participate in these conversations was emphasized.

However, the issues and conversations around secession raise the question of what an independent Peaks Island would want for services. The IIC forums offer a baseline. There is a need for a “What if” vision conversation on the island. Brenda Buchanan is organizing one such opportunity on Saturday, Feb 11 with a facilitator.

The issue of the potential resignation of the school dept. employees reminded the IIC group of the importance of checking in with other city employees as this secession process moves forward. Individuals agreed to seek out folks on the island for personal conversation.

Future Forums
Mike R has been approached by Tom Fortier from the city regarding future forums. Could these forums be jointly sponsored by the IIC and the city? There was discussion about the recently held PINA forum with city atty Gary Wood, councilor Gorham and legislator Boyd Marley. The lack of facilitation by PINA of the forum led to a lack of clarity of participants’ speaking time and the role of Tom at the panel table. Any future joint forums would require a clear statement of ground rules before hand. These was discussion of the potential advantages of joint forums: information regarding basic assumptions of current costs would be agreed upon before hand, city experts currently responsible for providing services could be available for questioning by island residents, and residents could attend one forum on a particular topic and hear both perspectives. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to have Mike R. talk further with Tom Fortier about the next forum being a joint forum, with no commitment to do so with all future forums.

Concerns around a potential “overload” of numbers and information and its impact were shared with the group. Some felt “The focus should be not the numbers, but how the money is spent.” The group also discussed whether individuals’ salaries should be presented within the “anonymity” of a group of numbers rather than individually, as the disclosure of individual salaries in public setting places those individuals in an awkward position.

Forum Issues that need to be covered in the coming weeks:
• Land Use/Wastewater and Portland Water District (next to be covered)
• Public Safety: Police and Fire
• Public Works and Harbormaster
• Social Services
• Government and Finances

Public Hearing in response to petitions
The city has stated that it would like to work with the IIC regarding the scheduling of the public hearing. The city suggested end of February, but the group suggested last week of March/first week of April, to allow completion of the forum process first.
The preparation of the written material to be presented at the public hearing can be begun now by IIC. Mike R hoped the report would not exceed 10 pages. The hope is to involve IIC members and nonmembers. Howard Peliken, Mike Langella, Judy Piawlock and George Rosol volunteered to help. Mike R will ask John Carroll and John Whitman if they want to help. The questions to be answered in the written report are:
• Should Peaks Island secede?
• What are the problems that have brought about the request to secede?
• What are the alternatives to secession?
• What is the tax impact of secession on Portland and Peaks Island?

Secession Process next steps
Mike R suggested that, after the public hearing, the 5 people who are the named "representatives of Peaks Island" should meet to decide whether to take the next step in the process, which is the advisory referendum. The representatives are: Eunice Curran, Judy Piawlock, Chuck Radis, Mike Richards, and Vanessa Sylvester. Mike R will convene this group before the public hearing to discuss the process.

Mike R brought the meeting to a close with a reminder of the importance of outreach to the Peaks Island community and expressed his appreciation at seeing "new faces" in attendance.
CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF MAINE

ARTICLE 1

Section 2. Power inherent in people. All power is inherent in the people: all free governments are founded in their authority and instituted for their benefit: they have therefore an unalienable and indefeasible right to institute government, and to alter, reform, or totally change the same, when their safety and happiness require it.
SpeECH BY MIKE RICHARDS
AT CITY HALL PETITION PRESENTATION

Over two centuries have passed since our forefathers established a new nation in America and a new city of Portland, and nearly two centuries have passed since they established the new state of Maine, each one conceived in liberty, dedicated to equality, and founded on the principal that free people everywhere have the unalienable and indefeasible right to govern themselves.

We are now engaged in a process which will test whether that right still lives and whether it applies to the people of Peaks Island. We have previously asked to govern ourselves, but we have been denied that fundamental right. The Maine Legislature has now expressly recognized our right to self-government and has established a formal procedure by which we can achieve it. We begin that process today by submitting these petitions to the City, signed by nearly 80% of the active registered voters on Peaks Island, with this simple request:

We, the undersigned registered voters of Peaks Island, Maine, wish to decide whether to secede from the City of Portland in order to achieve financial independence and to determine for ourselves all issues of importance to our community; we are therefore asking the City of Portland to conduct a public hearing to discuss whether Peaks Island should secede from the City of Portland, form the Town of Peaks Island, join in equal partnership with the other communities of this great state, and secure the blessings of self-government for ourselves and our posterity.

We are here again, at the doorstep of our independence, and with the help of our friends and our neighbors, and by the grace of God, this time we will prevail.
Happy Day!

For those of you who were unable to attend, I'm pleased to report that we submitted the petitions for public hearing today to Linda Cohen, Clerk of the City of Portland. The news media met us at the ferry terminal and interviewed several of us, so you may want to watch the local news tonight and read the paper tomorrow. We were met at City Hall by Tom Fortier, Portland's Island Liaison, and by Jim Cohen, Mayor of Portland. I delivered some brief remarks, which I've attached below.

The Clerk has 30 days to verify the signatures on the petitions. "Upon receipt of a petition with the required number of verified signatures, the City shall call and hold a public hearing," with at least 2 weeks prior newspaper notice, to allow the residents (and non-residents) of Portland and Peaks to discuss secession with the City. A moderator will be selected at the hearing, but no other official vote will be taken there.

At the hearing, the IIC must make a formal presentation, including (1) a description of the problems that have led to the secession effort, (2) potential solutions other than secession, (3) the potential impact of secession on Peaks and Portland, and (4) a written report that describes the impact of secession on property taxes on Peaks and in Portland.

With our previous subcommittee reports, we have already started to prepare for the hearing, but we still have much to do. At our next meeting on January 19th, the IIC will assign tasks to ensure timely completion of our hearing preparation and report. I look forward to seeing you there and to hearing from you soon.

Best regards,

Mike Richards
City of Portland, Maine

Voter Registration System

Registered Voters By Party

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Precinct</th>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Number of Voters</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>49.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Green Independent</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>4.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>13.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Unenrolled</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>32.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>891</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Active voters

\[
\frac{1109}{891} = 1.258 \text{ inactive}
\]
The Peaks Island community is cordially invited to attend and participate in this public forum on the ability of the prospective Town of Peaks Island to provide education for our children.
1. Minutes (5 min)
2. Treasurer's Report (5 min)
3. Petitions Submission Process 1/6/06 (20 min)
4. IIC Education Forum 1/12/06 (10 min)
5. PINA Forum 1/17/06 (20 min)
6. Other IIC Forums (20 min)
7. IIC Newsletter (10 min)

Total: 1 hour, 30 minutes.
Treasury Report 1/5/06

2,236.03  Savings
4975.00  Checking

$7,211.03  

150.00  not deposited yet
5.00  cash

$7,366.03

Have collected $900 more since our last meeting - 3 weeks ago -
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Judy Rawlocks</td>
<td>2109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Allen</td>
<td>2725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martha Callow</td>
<td>2725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross Edwards</td>
<td>5504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Allen</td>
<td>9761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Richards</td>
<td>2498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Hennessey</td>
<td>3014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Longella</td>
<td>3067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyne Richland</td>
<td>2984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda Capone-Newton</td>
<td>5024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michele Trunes</td>
<td>2453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Pedlikin</td>
<td>0067</td>
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<tr>
<td>M. Burnett</td>
<td>5933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janis B. Price</td>
<td>0051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betty Heins</td>
<td>3340</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Voter list is 11/8/05 election Report

from voter list 1105 + 2 just
City inactive 220
885 + 2
I say we have 1117 more inactive
768 + 2

11 deceased
6 on inactive
5 on active (proof) - 5
763

8 Cushing islanders
Not regist - not in
Recession territory
3 on inactive
5 on active - 5
758

4 people listed on
active - that are 2
757 + 2

Kimberly Davis is K. Dennis - 110 Brackett Ave.
Martha Barba is M. Daligan 242 Island Ave.
2)  

64 refused to sign  

23 undecided  

People signed in support of  

318 year round taxpayers - live here part time  

67 others not contacted or are no longer here -  

24 I can verify that still are here (away - school/etc.)  

The first signature was collected on July 4th 06-  

The last " " Jan 5 '06 - 5 pm -
Deceased

Bergstrom, James P.  21 Whitehead St.
  b. 1/19/55  died (killed)  2/2/05  Florida Key

Blatt, Herbert  Central Ave.
  b. 8/22/21  d. 4/30/04  Peaks

* Cullen, Mary Irene
  b. 3/18/06  d. 10/13/02  Ipswich MA

* Dustin, Jane
  b. 6/5/36  d. 7/8/96  Portland Peaks

Dustin, William H.  945 Seawood Ave.
  b. 5/1920  d. 3/23/05  Portland Peaks or Cape Elizabeth

Ingraham, Carl F.  45 Adams St.
  b. 8/13/1912  d. 3/14/05  Peaks

* Lange, Leo J.  5 Rumford, Mexico ME.
  b. 12/12/32  d. 10/17/03

Sovino, Michael  Pleasant Ave.
  b. 4/27/35  d. Aug - Sept '05  Peaks
2) *Phipps, Helen C.*
   b. 1/23/27
d. deceased

* Scevone, Jon B.
   b. 5/28/52
d. 7/15/05

*Witmer, Susan L.*
   b. 2/14/54
d. 9/82