

July 1, 2018, Monhegan Associates Inc. Trustees Meeting Minutes

The meeting began at 8 a.m. A quorum was declared, with trustees Bates, Durst, Faller, Farrell, Feibusch, Grey, Koerber and Morse present. Trustees Iannicelli, Smith, Weber and Odom were absent. Officers Burdick, Farrell, Hughey and Kerns were present.

Minutes of the August 18, 2017, Annual Meeting and the October 10, 2017, conference call were unanimously approved.

Trustees unanimously approved the Lands Committee recommendation, presented by Judy Grey, to retain MAI ownership of the ballfield on Lighthouse Hill and to keep the Whitehead Trail route as it is.

Trustees also agreed to have the Lands Committee pursue a lease with the Plantation to continue using the southeastern part of the ballfield for trash collection/transfer, after MAI consultation with lawyer David Soule, the Plantation Assessors and Travis Dow. Koerber suggested the plantation might want to invest in a trash compacter.

Wildlands stewardship was discussed at length, including how best to craft MAI policy on issues such as trails maintenance, invasive species and the responsibilities of the new part-time position of Wildlands Coordinator, which Faller described as “an experiment.” Faller, who will take over as president of MAI August 17, suggested the incremental creation of a formal MAI wildlands stewardship policy.

“The goal is to eat the elephant one bite at a time,” Faller said.

To start with, trustees agreed informally that the Trails Committee and other interested MAI members should draft policies for trail signs and bog bridges, to be discussed and possibly voted on at the August 17 trustees meeting. Burdick said the agenda for the August 17 meeting will be distributed to trustees three days beforehand.

Faller said Wildlands Coordinator Rebecca Fitzpatrick reports to an oversight committee, with committee members receiving a monthly, written summary of activity from her. It was informally agreed that her reports should be made available to the membership on the MAI website.

Burdick introduced Garrett Chisholm as MAI's summer intern.

Morse announced the summer's ecology lecture series, including Nancy Olmstead on managing invasive species and a different perspective on invasive species from Robin Kimmerer, discussing sustainability of lands and culture.

Trustees approved a no-drone policy on or above MAI land as a matter of safety and privacy. The policy will be posted on the MAI website and at major trailheads. Future trail map printings will include the policy.

Trustees tabled a proposal that MAI explore the idea of renting a barge to remove unwanted items from the island. The informal consensus was that residents are responsible for removing their own junk.

Trustees agreed to refer the issue of recent MAI map box vandalism to Monhegan's constable, Matt Weber. Trustees also discussed possible community alienation caused by the increasing gentrification of the island. Bates noted that few members of the island's winter community belong to Monhegan Associates and cautioned that MAI needs to "be mindful of" the possible perception of MAI as "intruders who have a way of doing damage without knowing what we are doing." Koerber said trustees should address any sources of community anger.

Fire and Safety Committee's Jes Stevens said the island's 911 emergency reporting system needs improvement.

Eileen Cameron said MAI's main fundraiser would be an August 8 house tour.

Camp Kawanee's annual visit to camp at the ballfield was July 9-14. Camp counsellors were scheduled to return July 31-August 2 for a service trip under the direction of Fitzpatrick and Chisholm.

Durst volunteered to be a central repository to cull important MAI records that would be electronically preserved. The FY 2019 budget will reflect the estimated cost of scanning relevant documents and correspondence into an MAI Cloud account.

MAI is seeking a volunteer webmaster to keep the MAI website up to date. Meanwhile Durst, who volunteered to train a webmaster, and Chisholm will maintain the website.

Burdick reported that the preliminary fiscal year 2018 operating results were lower than expected, with a \$12,000 deficit as opposed to a budgeted \$10,000 deficit. Contributions were lower than expected and MAI didn't get an expected grant, he said. The equity portfolio increased by about \$4,700 instead of a budgeted decline of \$8,100. MAI needs to seek more contributions and grants, Burdick said.

MAI's investment portfolio as of May 31, 2018, stood at \$326,400 with an asset mix of 57% equity, 38% cash and 5% stocks. The finance committee approved selling \$25,000 of equity and reinvesting in a 2-3 year federally insured bank certificate of deposit in order to rebalance equities to MAI's 50% target.