



Condensed Minutes of the Monhegan Associates, Inc. Trustees' Meetings May 4, 2019, June 28, 2019 and August 16, 2019 (Annual Meeting)

Wildlands stewardship: MAI President Fred Faller is seeking to codify stewardship policies for the wildlands that have been “tribal” knowledge until now, such as use of pesticides, fairy house rules, or prohibitions on technical rock climbing and drone use. Faller said he wants to create written explanations that MAI can provide in response to the many queries and comments we receive. Also many people don’t realize that the MAI land is private property and some visitors feel they can behave as they please. As stewards of the wildlands, MAI should enforce its policies, he said.

To make MAI more of a year-round organization, so that members need not be on-island to discuss issues, Faller urged the use of Internet applications like **Slack** for meetings and to engage younger members. Faller also noted that it has been very helpful to have Wildlands Coordinator Rebecca FitzPatrick as “boots on the ground” to inform members. Faller applauded the hard work done by many volunteers, thanking Clare Durst for scanning all MAI’s documents in a searchable format. MAI Vice President Richard Farrell spoke of the importance of preserving Monhegan’s 350 acres of wildlands as “a jewel of wildness, a small miracle” with “the potential to renew one’s life.”

Finances: Former MAI president Glenn Burdick is leading an effort to create a more robust endowment to support the roughly \$50,000 a year cost of maintaining trails and dealing with fire and safety issues. Expenses include the Wildlands coordinator, a summer intern, Monhegan based labor for trail maintenance and removing blow-downs (which could spark wildfires threatening the entire island), and taxes paid to the Plantation (while it’s unusual for a non-profit to pay taxes, it is part of MAI’s mission to support the community). To this end, MAI must increase its base of supporters amongst Island homeowners, plus reach out to visitors at the hotels, on the boats, major donors and institutions. Furthermore, MAI should selectively pursue grant funding to support mission consistent activities. MAI endowment stood at \$333,000 in mid-August.

The Finance Committee reported that MAI had an operating deficit of about \$7,000 for the past fiscal year, moderately better than budgeted. Trustees approved budgetary expenses of about \$61,000 for FY 2020, expected to produce a budgeted operating deficit of \$11,990.

The Broadband Tower: MAI trustees voted “to allow the Monhegan Plantation to pay for, place and maintain an approximately 100-foot communications tower on the MAI land in the vicinity of the ballfield, close to the power station on Lighthouse Hill.” Discussion included Monhegan Associates’ dual mission to protect the wildlands and to support and help ensure the viability of the year-round island community, which wants broadband to replace the unreliable internet service currently available on-island. Monhegan needs new 911 emergency radio equipment, and the new tower could be designed to accommodate new 911 equipment, Jess Stevens of the Monhegan Fire Department said. Objections to the project included the new eyesore of the tower and the possibility that broadband will be available from satellite systems in 5-6 years.

Ballfield Use: Trustees voted to continue MAI’s agreement with Monhegan Plantation to use part of the Ballfield for solid waste disposal storage. The ballfield has been cleared of rubbish and junked vehicles, and a Life Flight pilot has been consulted to assure a clear approach for emergency helicopter landings.

Water: MAI needs to stay informed of any action proposed by the Plantation to deal with the threat of sea-level rise to the Meadow aquifer, the island’s main water source.

Nominating Committee: The Trustees approved a six-member Nominating Committee, to be headed by Glenn Burdick.