

**Monhegan Associates, Incorporated – Annual Meeting**  
August 20, 2021

**Donation and Fundraising:**

Donor tracking

MAI President Fred Faller called the meeting to order via Zoom at 7:06PM ET.

This meeting was publicized by notices shared on social media and in mailings. A quorum was reached by at least 25% of Full Members casting ballots. Clare Durst made a motion to accept the minutes of 8/21/20 Annual Meeting, as circulated in the Spring Newsletter to MAI members, Marlene Arvan seconded. Motion approved.

**Reports by Officers and Committee Heads**

**Trail Maintenance Committee:** Fred Faller and the Committee are re-working the Trail Policy to include more about fire abatement. They are grappling with addressing wildlands that abut private structures for fire prevention.

**Reports**

**Financials -**

**Finance:** Bruce Kerns reported that, as of August 2021, the invested assets are approximately \$550,000 which represents an increase of almost 17% over the last year. Several generous donations, rebalancing the investment portfolio to favor equity investments, and growth in mutual funds drove the increase. The Finance committee is rebalancing the portfolio to align with the policy goals of 65 percent stocks, 25 percent fixed income, and 10 percent cash. All stocks are in environmentally conscious funds.

Bob Smith reported for the Budget Committee that low expenses and large donations in 2021 lead to a \$106,000 budget surplus. The proposed 2022 Budget has a line item to study a fundraising campaign. M. Arvan motioned to accept the report, G. Burdick seconded. The report was accepted.

**Fundraising Campaign:** The Finance Committee supports increasing the endowment to \$1.5 million to ensure funding the MAI mission. They propose networking with sister organizations the Island Institute and the Monhegan Museum for ideas. The advice is to have a feasibility study about moving forward in a manner consistent with MAI values. Linda Rae found increased giving over the last five years, demonstrating support for the MAI mission.

**Comments by the Vice-President:** Richard Farrell emphasized the importance of supporting the wildlands. Trustees must be sure their decisions protect the wildlands.

**Nominating:** Marlene Arvan reported that the Committee met remotely 10 times to prepare the slate for the Class of 2024. The nominees for the Class of 2024 are M. Arvan, James Galvin, Candis Kerns, and Nan Nelson.

**MAI Wildlands Coordinator:** Rebecca FitzPatrick reported that she maintains MAI social media accounts, trail & nature map sales, attends numerous meetings, and supports the Secretary with the elections. She aims to fulfill Trail Maintenance policies for safety and land protection such by leading trail volunteers, removing fallen branches to slow a fire from crossing a path, and hiring trail builders. She particularly thanks the volunteers who removed poison ivy and replaced signs this summer.

**Broadband Tower:** In a show of cooperation MAI, which owns the land, leased space to the Plantation for a 100-foot tower for broadband; the Plantation has responsibility for the tower. The old tower will be unusable. A small shed may be required next to the new tower for supplies. A trail will need moving for safety reasons.

**Museum Request:** Jamie Wyeth donated his Rockwell Kent collection to the Museum. The museum requests accommodation to build the needed climate-controlled storage. The trustees are looking at ways to help the museum get needed space.

**Wildland Preservation Policies:** President Faller asks and encourages everyone to volunteer for MAI committees.

**Trails Committee:** Ian Leavesley leads volunteers on weekly workdays. The Committee is studying whether trails can be used for fire abatement. Rebecca FitzPatrick has approval to improve a chronically wet area on Route 1 with steppingstones to keep hikers on the trail and prevent trampling an ever-widening pathway. The Whitehead trail was rerouted to avoid the Broadband tower fall zone and prevent hikers from slipping under a tree.

**Lands:** F. Faller reported that Charlie Hudson's gift of Hardwood Hill has been completed. Adam Blumenthal reported on the possible acquisition of land near Burnt Head.

**Ecology Committee:** The educational Summer Speakers Series resumed after a 2020 hiatus for Covid. The 2021 speakers Bill Livingston, Nathaniel Wheelwright, D. Whitney King, and Sarah Livingston presented their talks virtually. Claire Durst, Tish Miller, and Rebecca FitzPatrick coordinated technology. Sally Boynton arranged contracts for the speakers. The 2022 Ecology cochairs are Tish Miller and Candis Kerns.

**Leave No Trace:** Nan Nelson reported on implementing the Leave No Trace policy. Between mid-June and mid-August 2021, committee members discreetly dismantled 652 fairy houses and collected 110 human-made objects, plus 239 torn-up chunks of pin cushion moss. They plan to compare the 2021 fairy-house building rate year over year to determine if the policy discourages fairy-house building.

**Poison Ivy Abatement Trial:** The Ecology Committee proposed finding out if grazing by goats affects the amount of poison ivy in a study area compared to a control area. The goats will be treated well.

**Fire and Safety Committee:** Daniel Bates thanked Richard Farrell for 50 years of leadership and service respecting the wildlands. D. Bates and the committee used their research to update the Fire and Safety Policy. Research included a visit by a Maine State Forestry Ranger who suggested reducing risk by cutting dead wood along trails and clearing a buffer between the wildlands and buildings on private property. The Ranger stated that in Maine most fires are ground fires. The most likely scenario for a fire in the wildlands would be that a fire spread out from the village. Discussion continues about who has responsibility for clearing MAI land that reaches within 50 feet of buildings. The goal is fire prevention, not firefighting.

**Membership:** Linda Rae reported that MAI has 385 active members. The annual mailings were sent to members and friends in the spring and fall. A ballot mailing for the August Trustee election was sent only to Full members.

#### **From the Floor**

- D. Bates responded to a question, saying that the goats eating poison ivy will be treated well.

**Elections:** S. Freeman announced the results of the election for the Class of 2024: Marlene Arvan, Jim Galvin, Candis Cousins Kerns, and Nan Nelson.

M. Arvan motioned to adjourn, G. Burdick seconded. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM ET.

- S. Freeman