

Minutes of the CICA Annual Meeting, Thursday July 2, 2009 at 4:30 at Bob Earnest's house.

Present: Mabel Doughty, Bob Earnest, Beth Howe, Ester Knight, Jeff Putnam, Ruth Slagle, David Whiston, John Wilson. Also Mac Passano, Nancy Earnest, Jen Goff and John Holt.

Bob called the meeting to order at 4:50.

Board Election: Bob said that several people are going off the Board this year: Ruth Slagle, John Wilson, Beth Howe and Cheryl Stevens. The first three have agreed to continue to serve. Jen Goff has also agreed to join the Board. Bob asked if there were any other nominations. There were none. Ruth moved, seconded by Ester to approve the slate. Passed unanimously.

Island Institute Fellow: Bob said that the Housing Committee had made a proposal to the Island Institute, which has been accepted, to have a one-year fellow who will be shared with Peaks and Long Island, all of which have ongoing work on affordable housing. The fellow will be Mary Terry who is currently working on Peaks Island on their affordable housing program. They do not have a full year's work for her, so Chris Wolff suggested that Peaks, Long and Chebeague make a joint proposal for projects for her to do on all three islands. The Institute needs to have a vote of support for this from the whole CICA Board. John Wilson explained that our proposal is to do more detailed research based on interviews with island people, on both the demand for and the supply of housing on Chebeague. Mabel moved, seconded by David that the Board support having an Island Fellow to work on affordable housing. Approved unanimously.

IRS: Bob reported that CICA's initial tax returns (on which the organization owed no taxes) were sent in late and to the wrong IRS office. This resulted in a series of letters saying that CICA owed a substantial amount in penalties. Herb and Bob finally worked out the problem, resubmitted the returns to the correct office at the IRS and they have ruled that CICA does not owe any money. John said that this year's taxes were submitted early and to the correct office.

Balance Sheet: Bob handed out the balance and Jan-June profit and loss sheets for the past year (attached). The major asset and liability is 226 South Road. The rent from the house covers part of the cost, but we have a loss of \$4,000 -\$5,000 per year which must be made up in donations. Beth added that one of the things we have learned from 226 South Road as a pilot project is that we cannot serve island people who have extremely low incomes.

Fundraising: The organization has three fundraising efforts this year. One is to make sure that every member of the CICA Board has made a donation. With that basic support we will send a fund-raising letter out to the island community in the fall. There will also be a vegetable (and flower) garden tour in August where we will, sell tickets but also make the pitch for giving to CICA.

Energy Handbook: Last fall we worked with Lola Armstrong at the Church to provide simple storm windows for anyone who needed them. There is also now an energy auditor on the island. We will continue this energy-saving/weatherization work. John said he is working on a handbook for people on the island to provide information on energy efficiency/conservation and

generation for the various energy-consuming aspects of life – transportation, housing recreation etc. It will also cover various subsidies and grants that may be available. David said that recent state legislation has tripled the state allocation for weatherization that each household is eligible for to \$6,500.

Farms and Gardens on Chebeague:

The school garden is going well. Some donations have been made to cover costs and there is an intern for the summer. There is interest in trying to arrange for land (at least 5+ acres) that could be used to create an additional commercial farm on the island. There are several interested landowners. Bob has also explored creating a community garden. It needs to be in a trafficated area to encourage social interaction as well as raising vegetables and flowers.

Economic Development: John and Bob have been working with members of Droppings Springs, LLC. to find ways of adding value to or capturing more of the price of Chebeague lobsters, possibly by branding them. Bob said that they had explored the economics of lobster processing on Chebeague, but that such a business would have to compete with processors in Portland and the wages are only \$7-8 per hour, not enough to live on Chebeague. Jen said that they have found that a major block to having young people move to Chebeague is the need for jobs – that may be more critical even than housing. Bob said that he had recently been told that there are not many starting-level carpenters on Chebeague now. This is one of the reasons why a lot of labor comes out from the mainland.

Jeff said that Dropping Springs will be organizing several lobster bakes this summer on the mainland for clients. Nancy suggested using them as an opportunity to educate mainland people more on the life-cycle of lobsters, and possibly tying that to tourism possibilities.

There may also be an opportunity through a website run by the Island Institute that would sell product from a variety of island fishermen. Governor Baldacci's Task Force on Sustainability in the lobster industry has recommended more industry-supported marketing for Maine lobsters.

Micro-Loan Fund: A member of the CICA Board has suggested that CICA set up a micro-loan fund to provide support to island businesses which need modest amounts of money to get started or expand. If anyone is interested in investing in the fund or knows someone who is, it can get started. We would need to set up criteria for the loans and a review committee to evaluate applications.

Jeff said that SBA has loans up to \$30,000 (0% interest for 30 months) for existing businesses that have been caught in this year's credit crunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Howe

Secretary

