

Notes from the CICA meeting on December 18, 2012 at 7:15pm
at Town Office Meeting Room:

Present: Bob Earnest, Beth Howe, John Wilson, Shannon Smith, Dave Whiston, Deb Hall, Erin Whetham, Celia Whitehead

1. Report from YRH Committee -

The trees that had fallen against the School House Rd house have been successfully removed without damage to the home.

Both units are fully occupied and regular rent is coming into CICA.

John Wilson will start ripping wallpaper down in the 226 South Rd house in preparation for painting. Among other things, we will need to attend to any broken lights and the kitchen floor.

Bob Earnest mentioned a future idea could be to explore possibilities of providing affordable lots of land to people wanting to move to Chebeague.

Lastly, CICA's Maine Housing Financing is complete.

2. Schedule for Agriculture Committee –

Thank you to Erin Whetham for providing two helpful documents giving ideas about what the committee could work on.

To date the AG Committee members are Bob Earnest, Deb Hall, Celia Whitehead, John Wilson, and Erin Whetham. Erin Whetham volunteered to be the Chair; please email her with any ideas you have for the committee at trillium3177@gmail.com.

Rather than set a full schedule for the AG Committee, only the first meeting was scheduled for January 31st, 2013 at the Town Office Meeting Room.

3. Discussion of Eldon's memo.

After much discussion, a formal reply to Eldon's memo was drawn up. Deb Hall moved to support the reply with some word-smithing to be done between Bob Earnest and John Wilson. David Whiston seconded it. The reply is as follows:

The CICA Board fully supports a study of the historical and current demographic and socioeconomic population dynamics of Chebeague Island. Important corollary questions are:

- What are the factors that led to change over time?
- What are the factors that are keeping young people from moving here?
- What are the factors that are causing island youth to move away as they finish their educational years?
- How do these factors fit into and/or correlate with the demographic trends:
 - Of the island
 - Of the State of Maine
 - Of the nation and our society overall

We believe that the current memo’s list of “recommended action steps” is inappropriate and precipitous at this time; it should be developed only after the population dynamics study is complete. Board members felt that a number of the action steps would likely alienate potential new community members as well as some current Chebeaguers.

We believe that the Sustainability Coalition would do its work best if it first focused on the detailed demographic study, and if it focused and built on the action areas set forth in the Comprehensive Plan.

At least 4 members of the current CICA Board would very much like to attend the first meeting; we hope the date and time are such that we can attend!

4. New Business

Deb Hall brought up an idea for the future. Could it be beneficial to have an apartment building on Chebeague? It could be a nice one level building accessible to the older population if they are ready to move out of their houses but not ready for the Island Commons. This would allow them to be free of their house maintenance but also to stay within their community. The building wouldn’t be exclusive to the older population. It’s something to think about.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

