



Date: January 20, 2022

***Chebeague Island Community Association board meeting***  
**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Next meeting:** *to be set via email in the near future*

Board Members Present: Kel, Ben, Bob

Total attendance: 5 (Sarah Hopkins, Liza Adams)

Assignments are in **bold**.

Learning About Each Other (40 mins) *Ben talked about the importance of team building as this new set of board members gets up and running.*

1. Share a story that illustrates why joining in the work of CICA right now is important to you.
2. What is your superpower?
3. What is one thing we should know about you so that we can all work well together?

*We all shared stories of introduction, by way of the topics above.*

Community Conversation Debrief (25 mins)

1. What patterns or themes did you notice in the community conversation?
  1. *Groundswell of broad and deep support that was on display*
  2. *The importance of community buy-in*
  3. *Lots of visible energy; not yet coalesced around a particular path forward; still diffuse; and, how will we / how can we work with this?*
  4. *In the first meeting, one group member stated "it's always been this way and always will" – and, how that attitude melted away by the third meeting*
  5. *Strength of leadership from Island Institute*
  6. *A concern: there seemed at times a sense of "what is the one thing we can and should do" versus the concept that there is no one silver bullet; how to explore different avenues that are actionable and can move forward.*
  7. *Another concern: the refrain of "let's do more research" and how that can become a way to not deal with the work at hand.*
  8. *Encouraging threads came out of how we could contribute land, matching funds, work in kind, and volunteer labor – one or more of which are required by the agencies and ngo's who work in the affordable housing space in Maine.*
  9. *In spite of the often mentioned drifting away of volunteerism on Chebeague, there appears to be energy in this space. How deep is that energy?*
  10. *Looking for that tipping point at which people on Chebeague become reluctant, relative to the scarcity of – water, space, etc – on the island.*
  11. *Remember it's not just housing that stands in the way of a diverse (economically, age wise, etc) community – it's also transportation, parking, cost of groceries, child care.*

12. *Threats, reframed as possibilities; liabilities, reframed as assets.*
2. Which specific housing possibilities personally give you energy?
  1. *Yesterday's MMA meeting stressed how much money and support is out there now and in the very short-term future.*
  2. *The degree to which the infrastructure around this work in Maine has moved towards support for small communities.*
  3. *The degree to which support for elder housing was evident.*
  4. *Young single people who work so hard to stay here, and who, by doing so, make it possible for others to follow in that path; and how that drives our work.*
  5. *The fact that orgs like Habitat are ready to get going.*
  6. *The fact that Dan Brennan at MaineHousing put his contact info up there and said "call me and let's get started"*
  7. *Ways in which we can obtain houses that already exist on the island that people might want to sell into a program that supports year round housing on an ongoing basis – perhaps with a plaque that says "This is the ABC house that has this history of support..."*
  8. *The importance of stories that will help people connect and generate generosity in this area, and how this can help us build cooperation and involvement.*
  9. *The opportunity for this work to bring in some who have been sidetracked or silenced, who could be energized by this work.*
  10. *The opportunity for this work to bring all the island nonprofits together.*
3. What else did this meeting teach us about the dynamics of our upcoming work?

#### Organizing Ourselves and Other Business (20 mins)

1. Setting terms for board members
  1. *Bob explained how board members are elected by CICA members; and how the three year term process works.*
2. Other Business
  1. MaineHousing Webinar Takeaways
    1. *Some of the current programs / soon to be programs were listed that were described as "call us and let's get going"*
    2. *Energy around the topic of getting going soon, and that land may well be our place to start. A good next step might be to vote on surveying the land we currently own as to whether another structure could be built there. Another opportunity to explore might be part of the land across from the town office.*
    3. *The importance of getting the ball rolling.*
3. Assigning Tasks
  1. *Developing the Habitat for Humanity project going*
  2. *Ditto: Genesis*
  3. *Ditto: Community Land Trust – Kel to followup*
  4. *Communications (example: coordination of communications via Calendar)*
  5. *Starting the conversation with the SB regarding land (across from town office; tax acquired land; Curit; SHR); then possible discussion / warrant article at Town Meeting*
  6. *Walk the SHR land – first Bob and Liza; then with a soils engineer – look for a buildable parcel.*
  7. *Research the list of town owned land, looking for potentially buildable parcels that we could then discuss with the Town (first Selectboard, then Town Meeting)*

Closing (Next Meeting Date to Be Set Via Email)