

Marrowstone Island Community Association (MICA) Meeting Minutes – November 11, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Bud Ayres at 7:05 PM following a slight delay for technical difficulties.

Committee Reports

1. **Treasurer:** Susan Petek reported that currently there is \$1,589.00 in checking, \$19,430.00 in the cemetery fund, and \$12,388.00 in a Certificate of Deposit. In addition, Susan remarked that there are 75 current members and MICA welcomes anyone to join.
2. **Cemetery committee:** Bruce Carlson reported that while all goes well with the committee, there is need for new members. He outlined the committee's tasks as maintaining the grounds and keeping the records while emphasizing that the intention is for the it to have six (6) members and it's currently only a couple. He encouraged members to talk with him, if interested.
3. **Emergency preparedness committee:** Pete Hubbard spoke on the weekly communications with local neighbors via radios at 8:50 AM each Wednesday and again, via HAM radios at 9:30 AM. This group works on a Damage Assessment Matrix for the island that can be provided to Jefferson County in the event of an event. He also spoke of "windshield" review as a means of further determining damage and reporting to the Department of Emergency Management. He encouraged all to engage in the emergency neighborhood mapping exercises and to become familiar, if not already, with handheld radios to communicate with near neighbors.
4. Bud Ayres took a moment, this Veteran's Day, and asked for all to remember those who have served.

North Olympic Salmon Coalition (NOSC) Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project Update

Kevin Long, Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project, NOSC Project Manager, brought members up to date on the restoration project with an overview of what's been 'going on' with the project. He began by defining the goal of NOSC which is to promote "robust wild salmon stocks." He provided a timeline for this project from 1970 when the problem was identified, 1975 when a report noted degraded water quality in Kilisut Harbor resulting from the isthmus roadbed built on "too-small culverts" that, in turn, impeded water flow and increased sedimentation rates. In 2014, the first grant was submitted. By 2016, the permits for the project were submitted and approved in April of 2019. By July of 2019, the bid for the project had been awarded and ground was broken in August of this year. The project is on track for completion by or before November of 2020. This schedule accommodates "fish windows" – mid-July through mid-August.

He explained that while NOSC is the project developer, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is the owner of the nine million dollar contract for completion of this project. He was able to demonstrate that the planned design for the project will return the marshlands and water flows to the patterns shown in an 1871 map of the area. Every effort has been made to assure equal to or greater water flow channels than earlier configurations. In response to a question as to how soon might the area see juvenile salmon returning in greater numbers, Long confidently indicated that within the first Fall or "season", juvenile salmon will find the reopened waterway and move through to Kilisut Harbor and beyond. In his view, the impact of restored salmon runs of juvenile fish will benefit "eagles, otters, mankind" – a good thing for all. He also indicated clearance under the new bridge is expected to be 6 to 7

feet below any boat and 8 – 9 feet above head. When asked if the contractor thought this was a challenging project, he said that absolutely the contractor thought it was "neat". He noted that

the project manager had come out of retirement just for the challenge. He also noted that, typically, these are infrastructure builders that have found themselves “fascinated with the restoration aspect” of this project. Other items of interest: the bridge will have eleven foot lanes (to the fog line) with four foot shoulders to serve for bicycle and pedestrian traffic. He offered a link to an online panoramic view of the project: <http://www.dcproductions.com/kilisut360>. A final note is that a storm water treatment plant will be located at the west end of the bridge, returning treated water to the marsh.

Local Interest: Mystery Bay Goat Farm

Rachel Van Laanen, owner of Mystery Bay Goat Farm introduced members to her farm and its products. She prefaced her remarks by noting that she spoke, in her view, for all the small local farms (Red Dog, Midori Farms, Finn River as examples) in that they are all engaged in the work and lifestyle of their choice. For Mystery Bay in particular, they have elected to run the farm themselves. Earlier they have used interns but at this time, she has only two (2) part-time employees. The scale works for them. They have 38 goats of which 25 are milkers. All are named for themes typically selected from books (“Heidi” as an example). They produce five (5) products: Chevre (made with herbs also grown on the farm), Yoghurt, Cajeta (a goat milk caramel), Whole milk ricotta,, and once a year they team with Mt. Townsend to make a Mt. Mystery Brie Cheese. 95% of their products are sold in Jefferson County (most usually at the Farmer’s Market on Saturdays) and 5% is sold on Bainbridge. She noted that they have kept very specifically in mind a quote by Wendell Berry: “Eating is an agricultural act.” She and her husband/partner are trained ecologists and have committed to an ecological view of farming “not at the expense of the land but rather working with it.” Their goats are pastured eight months of the year and with portable electric fencing they are able to “move the goats around” on their own pasture as well as leased pastures (30-40 Acres). While she does not raise goats for meat, she has sold them to those who do. In response to questions, she noted that goats can “destroy” Scotch Broom but as they need “more carbon”, they prefer trees and branches. But they will eat most anything.

Cheese-making for Mystery Bay is a three-day process. Currently, there are no classes planned. Ms. Van Laanen ended her presentation by noting that hers is a story of an unconventional choice (goat farming) in a rural location and supported initially with unconventional financing from six (6) different lenders. She was able to “piece together” multiple loans that allowed her to get up and running and, in time, pay every loan back. As she said, you “pick your passion.”

Announcements

1. Nordland Craft Sale, November 30, 10AM–3PM, Nordland Community Center
2. Santa Visits, across from Nordland Store, December 4, 12 Noon
3. Tree lighting Ceremony, December 4, 7 PM
4. Garden Club Wreath Sale: wreaths - \$ 30, swags - \$ 25, Contact Carol Burk, 360-385- 0697

Friends of Fort Flagler

Vigo Anderson reported on the Annual Meeting that was held recently. On November 12, Alex McMurray will meet up at Fort Flagler together with FoFF members and Amy Does, grant writer, to review potential to refurbish the theatre.

Marrowstone Broadband Report

Ken Collins reported that there will soon be fiber optic cable from one end of Flagler to the other, “all the way to the fort.” He recounted the years of dialog trying to get better service to the island, from Century Link simply stating that “it doesn’t pencil out” to the PUD installing underground cable earlier on. When the opportunity came to Century Link to provide fiber optic

to Indian Island, working together with the PUD became a reality by way of a “cable swap”: PUD underground cable worked for Century Link and the Century Link fiber optic installed to the base of Marrowstone Island made it all work. Another note to homeowners: “fiber to the door” can result in an increase in property assessments, as much as 21 2 %. That said, it also may result in “virtually unlimited bandwidth”.

Marrowstone Island Foundation (MIF) Report

Bruce Carlson was pleased to announce that the fundraising has gone exceptionally well: to date, \$ 107,000 from 133 contributions. The current plan is to get the septic permit and building permit to prepare for arrival of the building in March or April of 2020. It will be placed directly on a foundation. Buildings will be painted in same scheme as all the East Jefferson Fire buildings. Once everything is in place and operational, the response time on the island can be as little as five (5) minutes. Responding to a question about the hydrants – the island has a number of them but not a sufficient number and while there is an effort to determine the cost to retrofit some of the hydrants, a water tender is thought to be a better solution. If purchased for Marrowstone Island, it will be a shared resource within the fire district; however, there is a scheduling algorithm that takes into account where the resource is located and just as it is a long way onto Marrowstone, it is also a long way off. Bud Ayres added that the Mutual Agreement with Indian Island for Fire and Emergency Services remains in place. Bob Barrett added that the tender from Port Ludlow stopped a fire “at the treeline” on the north end of the island during the “last big burn”, so we have benefited from that shared resource plan. Supporting this process for fire fighting resources on the island is very important.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marijo Brantner
Secretary