

Hello everyone-

I hope your holidays are happy and healthy, and that 2009 brings the same. This is the last PIC update for 2008, our first year!

As you know, there is no other similar governing or advisory body such as the PIC. We've had no model to follow or rules already in place; we've essentially had to navigate in uncharted waters this first year. With a year behind us now, it's a good time to take stock—so, we have decided to get together for an extended retreat-type of meeting on January 10. We'll spend 4 hours to assess our performance, to examine our structure, and to set some goals for future work. At this point it looks like we'll meet at the Children's Workshop and Steve Schuit will facilitate our work. I know from experience how valuable strategic planning can be, and we are all looking forward to this session. I welcome your thoughts or any input you'd like the PIC to have as we reflect back and look ahead.

In December Rob Tiffany and Mike Richards were sworn in for 3-year terms on the Council. We elected Mike to be our Chair, with Betsy Stout re-elected to the Vice-Chair position. Tom Bohan will continue to serve as Treasurer.

We have changed our meeting start time to 6:30, to better accommodate Mike Murray and Kevin Donoghue coming from town. We still plan to meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays and the third Thursday. We'll set the year's calendar in advance and post it on the website.

There are a number of active committees that can use your talents:

- * the Peaks Island Cost of Living Task Force is hard at work to document costs associated with island living, (Betsy and Lynne- bstout@windham.k12.me.us or islynne@maine.rr.com) There are teams to examine transportation, taxes, economic development, housing, utility costs, etc.
- * the Peaks Island Public Transportation Committee is investigating the formation of a taxi or shuttle or other public transport system on the island, (Tom- tbohan2@maine.rr.com)
- * the Communications Committee will begin regular monthly meetings in January- on the 4th Thursday of each month- (Lynne- islynne@maine.rr.com)
- * the Zoning Committee will continue to examine land use issues as they relate to islanders' goals to preserve our community (Rob- robtpeaks@yahoo.com)

You can bet that we'll be seeking more help after our January 10 planning session- we know we need to work on island traffic and parking, energy issues, school issues, emergency services, and other topics- and you can help make our efforts successful.

As always, check our website for updates and information- www.peaksislandcouncil.info. And thank you for your continued support and great ideas- I'm excited about this year's PIC and I'm looking forward to a year of positive action for Peaks Islanders-

Best,

Lynne

Lynne Richard