

Jim Green  
President

Ned Nalle  
Vice President, Nominating

Gary Madeira  
Treasurer, Secretary



Spring 2023 Newsletter

Jack Katz  
Will Hudson  
Cammie Disston  
Marnie Phillips  
Whitney Drayton  
Perot Bissell  
Elizabeth Johnson  
Frances Fremont Smith

### The President's Remarks

2023 is upon us and I am pleased and excited to work with our new board members. One of our goals was to increase representation of the villages on the board. I am happy to report we now have at least one person per village on the board and with a 35%/ 65% of women to men on the board, we are heading in a more balanced direction. This year we hope to add the voices from the younger generations. Last year we added a Facebook page and an Instagram page in addition to our newsletters and we will continue to provide timely updates on the news in town via these formats. Additionally, our plan is to increase our presence as a voice/ bridge to our members and the local government; however, with several 'hot topics' (see below), we are exploring ways to understand what consensus is within the membership. Last year we revamped how our annual meetings are held and it was a great success. This summer, we are planning for two Members Meetings in a similar format; one in July and one in August. Another beautiful season on MDI is around the corner!

Jim Green

### The New Firehouse Construction is Underway

A 6 million dollar budget was passed to update the fire department in NEH and Somesville. New bunk rooms, a gym and a new



Bay (no new truck for the bay, the square footage was needed above) are all part of the plan. The volunteer EMS was absorbed by the fire department last year. We average 200 calls per year (mostly alarms) with 1-2 being actual fires (according to our fire chief's records in 2020-2021 as reported at the town meeting)

### Renderings of MD365's Proposed Subdivision in Northeast Harbor



These plans will be presented to the Planning Board at 6pm on March 8. Participate in a robust discussion of this plan, the resulting requests for changes in land ordinances, the effect on existing taxpayers contributions to the infrastructure and more. This project has already resulted in two competing petitions. If you have thoughts you'd like to share but cannot attend in person or by zoom (link on mtdesert.org), you can send an email to Bill Hanley, Chairman, c/o Durlin Lunt: manager@mtdesert.org

### Make Room Brown Tailed Moth; The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid is on MDI



Alert your gardeners and keep an eye out! This aphid-like bug is trying to gain a foothold has been working its way up the east coast, but we can try to stop it! For complete information watch this super informative and slightly hopeful video: <https://vimeo.com/793417501>

### The Short-Term Rental Licensing Proposal

Another hot topic in town: already 6 months and multiple meetings in; the language and even the very existence of this proposed ordinance is under scrutiny. The Musson Group, at the behest of the BOS, has created a complicated, mostly redundant set of rules, requirements, and fees to license and track anyone renting their homes for more than 2 weeks a year. To see the language being considered, please see the Pdf attached at the bottom of this email. To participate in the meeting at 5 pm on Tuesday, Feb 21, click on the zoom link at the bottom of this email. To write to express your thoughts: address emails to Kim Keen, ceo@mtdesert.org

### A Proposal to Reorganize the MDI Regional School System

The numbers of students are dwindling and 4 different models have been proposed by a special committee to address the elephant in the room. The new structure would create a single district with one board, one budget and one employer for all staff. The goal is to Overhaul the existing system and provide a stronger, better co-ordinated curriculum, better and more efficient special education programs and services, greater access to extra-curricular activities, provide more opportunity for students to form successful peer groups and better grouping for teaching to best meet the student's needs. It proposes to create one equitable budget shared by all towns. To view the four models, see text below in this email.

Grade Level	2022-2023				
	MDES	Tremont	Southwest Hbr.	Bar Harbor	Trenton
Pre-K	12		17		6
0	11	13	15	41	14
1	11	16	15	29	16
2	17	10	20	32	17
3	15	11	6	50	17
4	14	20	12	36	6
5	9	17	13	34	18
6	20	12	12	43	12
7	18	12	19	39	17
8	25	7	15	37	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>139</b>

### Your Voice

How can summer residents have a say in our local government? Short of changing your residency to the state of Maine, there are several ways: Summer residents can speak at the town meetings (info below). You must be there in person to interact, but did you know you can also watch the live streamed town meeting on YouTube? You can also attend any number of Board of Selectman, Warrant Committee and other committee meetings too in person or in a Zoom format. And you can join or continue your membership with the SRA. We plan to increase our efforts in communicating with the local government so our member's concerns and comments are heard. Our membership fee is \$25 annually. Digital invoices and newsletters go out each spring and can be paid online. And, while we are trying to reduce waste, we still send paper newsletters as well, to a portion of our membership who have requested this format. In an effort to communicate more in the off season, we have new Facebook and Instagram page as well, so please follow us on one or both to stay up to date!



### The SRA Wants YOU!

Do you have friends or family who rent or own a home on MDI, but don't have voting privileges? They are eligible for membership. Reach out at [info@123neh.com](mailto:info@123neh.com)

### The Skating Rink at the Marina

We have a new attraction in NEH and it is bringing in people from all over to skate and play hockey! Mother Nature limited how much it could be open but The Friends of the NEH Skating Rink brought this project to life: <https://sites.google.com/view/nehskatingrink/>



### REMINDER

**The Town Meeting** is at 6:00 pm, on May 2, 2023 at the Neighborhood House. All residents are welcome. To watch a recording or subscribe: [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and enter Town of Mount Desert, Maine. An exact link for the live streamed event will be announced. If you haven't been to our town website, check it out: [mtdesert.org](http://mtdesert.org) To follow us on Facebook: **Summer Residents Association, town of Mount Desert** To follow us on Instagram: **Summer Residents Assoc MDI**