



November 2015

Dear Three Milers,

Closing weekends remind me of the passage of time. Another year. Another tick forward. This year was no different and no less amazing. With the help of our great volunteers our world was shut down for another winter. Off-season manager Dinty Child wrote best about leaving the island on Oct 4, "Now it's the island's turn to go to sleep...Sweet dreams until we wake her up in the spring."

We had another great year.

- Will Holmes returned for his eighth year as manager and described it as his most relaxing yet. He was supported by a fantastic staff and croo.
- The beds were full, and we made great progress on the typically low week 1 enrollment. The summer starter (3 night stays week 1 at a reduced daily rate) resulted in 64 campers in the beginning of the week and 78 for the end of the week.
- Three of four fall weekends were full, and we welcomed a large group of "young members" from the Boston Chapter of the AMC.
- Shoulder season use included a group of boy scouts, songwriter's workshop, music week, and yoga camp.
- We are financially healthy and have added to the coffers.
- Our 4th year of survey ratings remained consistently high and most comments were very favorable.
- The summer speakers were well received.
- We have a new leech field. Jack Trickey did a terrific job as our (volunteer) project manager and delivered on time and under budget. Imagine!
- Other maintenance projects were completed including the main house porch floor, the handicap ramp to the store, cabin maintenance including railings for stairs with more than two risers, ladders on some cabin docks, second screen doors in the Idlewilds and Rock Ledges, a new wood shed, and additional trail work.
- We made some major purchases such as a triple door freezer, a motor for one of the baggage boats, a wood stove, and a sound system for the Rec Hall.
- Our own Nancy Grant (former Manager, croo parent, committee member, committee chair, and Rec Hall campaign co-lead) has been hired by the AMC as the Director of the Volunteer Managed Facilities (VMFs). There are 10 VMFs, of which Three Mile is the largest. We look forward to working with Nancy and the other VMFs on projects, goals, efficiencies, and best practices.
- Neil Burns completed his term as Committee Chair. Among our many accomplishments under Neil's leadership are the new Rec Hall, the leech field, a new main house roof, the reconditioning of the Appy, and a kitchen rehab including floors, counter tops, and equipment. In addition, I think of Neil as the "heads in beds" committee chair. His focus on filling excess capacity through real time marketing and programs has made our maintenance and purchases possible, and has relieved upward pressure on our rates. THANK YOU Neil!!!

While change in our community seems miniscule (thankfully), we are always chock full of ideas for projects that either preserve our island or make our experience even more enjoyable. As expected, we have some exciting projects and goals going forward.

- Strategically, I will be working with the committee this off season to evaluate our structure and meeting process. The goals of this introspection are many, but are best summed up as making sure our work gets done while allowing committee members to pursue their collective passions. We have a great opportunity right now to work on some exciting projects (reduction in fossil fuel consumption, establishing an endowment, and more progress on sustainability to name a few) and we want to make sure we are set up to do so.
- On the more tactical side we want to expand our use of composting toilets and will add two more stalls to the Newcastle by next summer. The addition will utilize excess capacity in the existing structure. We will also evaluate the Palace and the Breezy triple for a much more costly conversion to the Clivus system. Anyone on hand for the discussion about the johns would have been entertained by all the insights, opinions, and comments about toilet seat height.
- Continued progress on dock ladders and second screen doors on cabins, as well as rehab of tent platforms.
- A mattress inventory and following replacement schedule.
- On-going evaluation of our water fleet, including pricing some stand-up paddleboards (SUPs).
- Further investigation into an outside wood fired oven as well as some improvements to existing kitchen ovens.
- A possible “foodie week” for the shoulder season.
- An energy usage study with informational signs at various island locations.
- As always, careful evaluation and consideration of our electronics policy and enforcement (no changes planned!)
- Opportunities to work with other VMFs, AMC chapters, and the larger AMC on joint projects such as the solar panel project with Cardigan Lodge.

As many of you know, I was fortunate to be able to fill the Assistant Manager role for part of the summer. Huge thanks to Ginger Maciejowski for teaming with me. She left big shoes to fill and I would like to extend a public thank you to her and her family for her four years of service. Likewise, Jake Barker finished up five years of service to the island as croo and as Maintenance Manager. It’s amazing to see what he does, and as I told him many times, there is no telling how great my house would look if he would visit for just one week!

We are still looking for candidates for Assistant Manager (the best job in the world) and Maintenance Manager. The roles are critical and our community is fertile ground for replacements. Please forward any thoughts or questions to me at committeechair@3mile.org, or to Will Holmes at manager@3mile.org.

A final comment on working as Assistant Manager. The experience was terrific and was really helpful to me in my new capacity as committee chair. I know it positions me even better to serve the island – a little knowledge is a great way to round out my desire. It was wonderful to meet so many of you and to experience the character of each week. I can truly say that every week is great – even when it rains.

This winter will be spent on committee affairs, but also on some island mysteries such as why the banana tootsie roll pops are such slow sellers...

Best wishes for a happy and mild winter. Stay in touch with our facebook page, pull out the island map over the holidays to reminisce, get your reservations into Sally on time, and tick off each day as it ends and marks another day closer to our return.

Sincerely,

Gillian King