

CRUISE SHIP COMMITTEE

PACKET OF MATERIALS

MEETING APRIL 14, 2016

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Agenda

Minutes for approval

Supporting Documents

AGENDA

Bar Harbor Cruise Ship Committee

Thursday April 14, 2016

10:00 AM

Council Chambers

Municipal Building

93 Cottage Street

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - A. March 10, 2016
- III. Adoption of agenda
- IV. Staff Reports
 - A. Ferry Terminal Property update
- V. Regular Business
 - A. Boarding Committee Discussion
 - B. Dropoffs Discussion
 - C. Update on Cruise Passenger Economic Study
 - D. Ferry Terminal Discussion.
- VI. Items for the next agenda
- VII. Set next meeting time, date and place for the next meeting.
- VIII. Adjournment

Minutes
Bar Harbor Cruise Ship Committee
March 10, 2016
Council Chambers – Municipal Building
93 Cottage Street
12:30 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Eben Salvatore called the meeting to order at 12:30 P.M.

Members present: Eben Salvatore, Chair, James Collier, Vice Chair; Amy Powers, Member, Anne Greenlee, Member, Jeff Dobbs, Member, Paul Paradis, Member, Sandy McFarland, Member; Jim Willis, Member; John Kelly, Member; Ken Smith, Member; Clare Bingham, Member and Robert Osborne, Secretary.

Also present: Cornell Knight, Town Manager; Todd Gabe, U Maine and Jim McConnon, U Maine; Skip Strong; Martha Searchfield, Chamber of Commerce; Todd Graham; Duncan Holley; Pat O'Brian; Melanie Graten and Sue Stanley.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. January 11, 2016

Mr. Paradis moved to approve the January 11, 2016 minutes as presented. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the motion.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Paradis moved to adopt the agenda with an added item to discuss the Acadia National Park "car free day" as a discussion item. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion, and the Committee voted unanimously to approve the motion.

IV. STAFF REPORTS

A. Ferry Terminal Property Update

Cornell Knight told the committee there is no closing date at this time.

V. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Discussion with U Maine's Todd Gabe for Economic Study

Todd Gabe and James McConnon, Jr. spoke about their experience and knowledge concerning gathering information on the economic impacts of cruise ship passengers in both Bar Harbor and Portland, Maine.

Mr. Gabe discussed the 2002 Bar Harbor, Maine study. There was \$12.1 million in local sales revenue which equates to an average of \$85.00 per passenger and up to \$106.00 per cruise sponsored excursion tourist. There were 64 ships that year. Eight ships were surveyed with 2,332 survey forms and a 46% response rate.

Mr. Gabe indicated that the 2008 Portland, Maine study showed similar impacts. There was an \$8 million local sales revenue impact which equates to \$81.00 per passenger and up to \$110.00 per cruise sponsored excursion tourist.

The Committee discussed ideas that a new survey could look at. There are larger ships and more passengers than in the past. How do we get good information on where passengers go and what they purchase and how they choose to dine.

Mr. Dobbs stated that last year was down for retailers in Bar Harbor. The question was to look at vessels origin and to target questions. Why this cruise? Why Bar Harbor? Spending details? Canada, Europe, New York, others?

The Committee discussed how to get a proposal.

Mr. Paradis suggested that the Committee recommend to the Town Council that the University of Maine School of Economics provide a proposal on cruise ship impacts and then made that a motion. Mr. Dobbs seconded the motion. Mr. Paradis clarified that the request would be for Cruise Ship funding not to exceed \$10,000. It was also suggested that the Council could explore participation with other entities.

The Committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

B. Sue Stanley requests discussion regarding Cruise Ship excursion passengers and transit drop off points as they relate to supporting local businesses.

Sue Stanley spoke to the Committee about her concerns related to bus transportation of cruise ship passengers and the limited amount of activity in the area of Sagegrass at 156 Main Street. She is seeing a downturn in activity. It was noted by Martha Searchfield that there is about 150,000 passengers annually.

Ms. Powers suggested that the Chamber of Commerce Dropoff Committee be reestablished and that they review these questions of equity and timing.

Mr. Paradis moved that two representatives to the Dropoff Committee be from the Cruise Ship Committee being Amy Powers and the Chamber Representative. He urged this be done prior to the season heating up. Mr. Dobbs seconded the motion which was passed unanimously.

C. Ferry Terminal Discussion.

The Committee discussed the Ferry Terminal. Mr. Dobbs read a letter that he had written laying out his thoughts on the ferry terminal and how to proceed. It was established that the Maine Port Authority would be the owner/operator of the terminal. A revenue stream would be needed to operate the terminal to be established through fees. It was thought that the Town would continue to maintain the current fee structure. It was noted that the transportation of passengers is not solved under the study.

D. HUB of Bar Harbor request to Town for \$30,000 from Cruise Ship CIP

The Committee discussed the Town Council's request for the Committee to review the \$30,000 HUB request for assistance in providing full time staff funding to be paid from the Cruise Ship CIP fund.

Mr. Dobbs spoke in support of the request. He indicated that the Town needs what HUB does. He indicated that the HUB program needs the jump start.

Mr. Paradis said that the HUB is a good program. He questioned taking the funds from Cruise Ship funds and was not willing to do that.

John Kelly said that he also has issue with using Cruise Ship funds to support the program. He raised fairness questions suggesting this request was no consistent with how other "non profit" programs are funded.

It was suggested that HUB and the Chamber should partner.

After considerable discussion Mr. Smith made a motion to recommend to the Town Council that the HUB funding request be denied. Mr. Paradis seconded the motion. The Committee voted eight in favor and four against the motion.

E. Acadia National Park Car Free Mornings.

John Kelly spoke to the Committee about the Car Free proposed dates. This would involve closing the Park Loop Road. They are: May 14 and September 17, 2016; May 13 and September 16, 2017 and May 12 and September 15, 2018. There will be more discussion of this item at the next meeting of the Committee.

VI. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

It was suggested that the Boarding Committee be discussed at the next meeting.

VII. SET NEXT MEETING TIME, DATE AND PLACE

It was suggested that the next meeting be 10:00 am on April 14, 2016 in the Council Chambers.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paradis moved that the meeting be adjourned at 2:36 pm and Mr. Dobbs seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Signed as approved:

Robert Osborne, Secretary
Cruise Ship Committee, Town of Bar Harbor

Date