

AGENDA
Bar Harbor Cruise Ship Committee
Wednesday, January 26, 2022 @ 3:30 PM
via Zoom Webinar

- I. CALL TO ORDER—**
 - a. Excused absences**
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (UP TO 15 MINUTES)—Use raised hand function**
- III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES—January 11, 2022**
- IV. STAFF REPORTS—**
- V. REGULAR BUSINESS--**
 - a. Breakwater Improvement Update**
 - b. Continue Discussion of Draft Feasibility**
 - c. Update on latest CDC Orders/Covid**
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (UP TO 15 MINUTES)**
- VII. COMMITTEE COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

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Minutes
Bar Harbor Cruise Ship Committee
Tuesday, January 11, 2022 @ 3:00 PM
via Zoom Webinar

I. CALL TO ORDER—3:00 PM

Excused Absence: Jeremy Dougherty, Harbor Master Chris Wharff. Late arrival Dr. Jane Disney.

Attendance: Cruise Ship Committee Members- Chair Person Eben Salvatore, Councilor Matt Hochman, Larry Sweet, Sandy McFarland, Martha Searchfield, Dr. Jane Disney, Sarah Flink, Ken Smith, Greg Gordon, Police Chief Jim Willis, John Kelly, Amy Powers, Skip Strong, Jen Cough, Town Manager Kevin Sutherland, and Lynn Kenison Higgins.

Police Chief Jim Willis, Sarah Flink, Greg Gordon, Skip Strong and Amy Powers are non-voting members. Town Manager Kevin Sutherland and Lynn Kenison Higgins did not vote. The voting membership was nine.

CRUISE SHIP INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES--Also attending were Mike McGarry and Eric Dussault for CLIA, Captain Thomas Hinderhoffer of the Royal Caribbean Group; Glenn Tucker, Laurie Clothier, Jenifer Trautwein, Brian Beall, Faith DeAmbrose, Reed Linsk, and Harold Quesada.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (UP TO 15 MINUTES)—There were not any public comments.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES—January 4, 2022

Mr. Smith made the motion to approve the minutes with a second by Mr. Sweet.

<u>Searchfield</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Salvatore</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Hochman</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>McFarland</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Smith</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Sweet</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Kelly</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Cough</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Motion passed</u>	<u>8-0.</u>

Dr. Disney made the motion to reconsider the minutes for corrections, with a second by Mr. Hochman. Mr. Smith then made the motion to approve minutes contingent upon corrections with a second by Mr. Sweet.

<u>Searchfield</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Salvatore</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Hochman</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Disney</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>McFarland</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Cough</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Smith</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Sweet</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Kelly</u>	<u>Y</u>

Motion passed 9-0.

IV. STAFF REPORTS—Town Manager Kevin Sutherland reported that the Town Council will meet Tuesday, January 25 via Zoom, and the access information will be made available for the public. There were not any other staff reports.

V. REGULAR BUSINESS—

a. Review of 2022 Guide—Motion was made by Mr. Smith to present this guide as is to the Town Council, and seconded by Mr. Kelly.

<u>Searchfield</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Salvatore</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Hochman</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Disney</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>McFarland</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Smith</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Sweet</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Kelly</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Cough</u>	<u>Y</u>

Motion passed 9-0.

b. Continue Discussion of Draft Feasibility—Discussion focused on September and October workability with Saturdays designated as an off-day for cruise ships. It was acknowledged that feedback would be needed from the Cruise ship Industry. It was also viewed as potentially working well for Town Department staff such as Police, Harbor and Parking, as well as the Fire. Chief Willis explained that in the past Police staff worked overtime on cruise ship days, supervising parking and traffic at the pier. Today due to understaffing in the above- mentioned departments, Saturdays off would help with scheduling issues.

Mr. Strong pointed out a potential pitfall with “small ships” that could arrive, not being included under the same restraints as large ships. Even small ships require some of the same services from the Town and therefore would not actually be a day off. A more accurate definition is

required for “no ship” day. He also commented how a small ship with a foreign flag requires a pilot, and that there was an operational concern if more than four such ships arrived on any day. This would drastically affect no ship day. Ms. Flink shared her discussion with Harbor Master Wharff and his recommendation of only 2 ships at Anchorage A. Dr. Disney felt that the language was also confusing. Clarification would be needed to better inform the public that there would be “no ship” days or “small ship” days. She also recommended assigning small ship days along with no ship days in order to assess public feeling. Ms. Cough questioned how Saturday was chosen as the best day off of the week; feeling that for some businesses Saturdays were not the busiest day of the week and would benefit from cruise ship arrivals. Mr. Kelly also shared that Saturdays are not the busiest day of the week for Acadia National Park, which is a destination of many cruise passengers.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (UP TO 15 MINUTES)—Mr. O’Connell shared his disappointment that the Cruise Ship Committee would recommend less of a decrease than the Town Council had originally considered.

VII. COMMITTEE COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS—

Chairperson Salvatore will finalize Feasibility draft for review. This draft will then be presented to the Cruise Ship Industry for their feed-back. Initial recommendations will be completed to present to the Town Council. Ms. Flink will present the CDC updated sail order and COVID. Action Item draft presented by Ms. Powers.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT—5:30 pm.

Lynn Kenison Higgins, Deputy Clerk

Draft Workability Feedback

Introduction

On December 7, 2021 The Bar Harbor Town Council referred a draft outline of proposed restrictions on cruise ship visitation to the Cruise Ship Committee for review. Workability, feasibility, and effectiveness feedback was requested. Various restriction methods proposed in the outline included daily passenger caps, monthly passenger caps, number of days ships are allowed, indirect ship size restrictions and total passengers per year. There was an accompanying chart of passenger caps by month. A second chart of issues, goals and policies was included.

The CSC held several meetings and discussed the draft outline. Several officials from CLIA and individual cruise lines attended the meetings via Zoom.

The discussion yielded the following action items for consideration:



Workability-

- Provides a day off each week for Town Staff
- Provides scheduling consistency for the cruise lines
- This provides a break in the daily ship visitation and the impacts that has on the community.

Effectiveness-

- Indirectly could benefit the visitors on the other 6 days of the week
 - More coaches available
 - Rested staff / service
- Eliminates all impacts on the Pier, Agamont, downtown
- Reduces the intensity of the Fall season
- Reduces the visual impacts and scale
- Reduces the number of ships per month

Economic Feasibility

- This contributes to reducing the number of ships per month
- This contributes to reducing the number of passengers per year
- The proposed change could lower revenue to the Town disproportionately to the lower expenses. (for example: if a ship was canceled that would have paid the town \$15,000 there may not be \$15,000 of expenses saved by the Town)
- The proposed changes would reduce the commerce for area restaurants, merchants and tour operators.

[REDACTED] (does not include "small" ships. Booking and anchorage needs will be handled by Harbormaster and Pilot)

"ships" are any cruise ship over 250 Pax

"small ships" are any cruise ship less than 250

Total foreign calls of any size limit of 3 ships

Total of 4 ships any size

Workability

- Provides consistent scheduling for all operational Staff.
 - Established routines improved efficiency
 - Simple to know what dates are available
- Reduces potential confusion
- The least amount of restrictions for the ship size that almost everyone accepts
- Pilots and Harbormaster recommend this
- Promotes the small ship mentality

Effectiveness

- Less likely to reach daily pax caps
- Eliminates the feel of three ships and perception it can have on some people
- Will likely reduce the number of the larger ships
- This contributes to reducing the number of ships per month
- This contributes to reducing the number of passengers per year
- Eliminates 3-ship days (average of 10 per year)
- Limits "Small Ships" to a max of 3
 - Visitors that are bussed from Bucksport will not have as positive of an experience

Economic Feasibility

- The proposed change could lower revenue to the Town. Still having 2 ships would not lower expenses.
- The proposed changes would reduce the commerce for area restaurants, merchants and tour operators.

[REDACTED]

Workability-

- Recognizes the capacity the Town is normally at for this period
 - Micro managing specific dates is possible as the Town is not at 100% for the entirety of these months
- Should reduce the staffing needs for whatever ships do visit.
 - The time of year that staffing is needed elsewhere the most
- Indirectly will prohibit ships of a certain size for this time period-

- More in line with previous years

Effectiveness-

- This results in reduced passengers, ship frequency and ship size
- Passengers that have historically have visited during this period have enjoyed Bar Harbor in the Summer and that should continue.
- This relieves some of the increased trends of land based tourism in the peak Summer months
- Visitors that are bussed from Bucksport will not have as positive of an experience
- This should contribute to reducing the number of ships per month
- This contributes to reducing the number of passengers per year

Economic Feasibility

- The proposed change would lower revenue to the Town disproportionately to the lower expenses.
- The proposed changes would reduce the commerce for area restaurants, merchants, and tour operators.

Community Relations

- COVID 19 Management Plan-Harbormaster gatekeeper for information to communicate to the ship agents
- Updates from CLIA on CDC protocols, situation
- Communications & Outreach-Acadia National Park, BH Chamber of Commerce, other towns on the island, and business community. How do we best communicate with the public and these entities?
- Tourism Best Management Practices program similar to Juneau, AK's *Complaints & Concerns Initiative*

Industry Relations

- Pre-season meetings with the following
 - Ship Agencies
 - Federal Agencies
 - Acadia National Park
 - US Customs & Border Protection-policy updates, staff availability, other tbd
 - US Coast Guard-discussions about legislative, regulatory, and policy matters
 - State of Maine
 - ME Department of Environmental Protection-share latest environmental initiatives, Maine Climate Council outreach
 - ME DMR-communicate ship schedule, discussion with zone leadership and zone Resource Manager
 - ME Marine Patrol-communicate ship schedule, offer a ride-a-long
 - ME Pilotage Committee-communicate ship schedule
 - ME DOT-environmental initiatives, Maine Climate Council outreach
 - ME Port Authority

Operations

- Ground Transportation
 - Signage requirements
 - Van, bus and motorcoach operations
 - Ubers? Taxis? Other modes of transportation
- Maritime Operations
 - Regulation of tender movement
 - Tenders tying off to docks
 - Navigation in harbor

Sustainability

CLIA cruise lines are committed to responsible tourism practices both on and off the ship, including an intense focus on the shoreside experience of its customers, and their impact on local communities.

- Environmental stewardship-ship tours when appropriate
- Install solar panels to support installation of device charging station at visitor information center
- Support installation of water bottle filling stations at existing public restrooms
- New tour development - on island and on vessel product development