

Minutes
Joint Town Council and Conservation Commission Workshop
Tuesday, July 12, 2016
Council Chambers – Municipal Building
93 Cottage Street
6:00 P.M.

- I. CALL TO ORDER** 6:00 p.m. – In attendance were Councilors: Paul Paradis, Anne Greenlee, Peter St. Germain, Burt Barker, Clark Stivers, Matthew Hochman. Absent: Gary Friedmann

Also in attendance were Conservation Commission members: Jesse Wheeler, Michael Handwerk, Jeff Miller, Erickson Smith, and Planning Director Robert Osborne.

- II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA** – Mr. St. Germain, with second by Ms. Greenlee, moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion passed 6-0.

III. DRAFT OPEN SPACE PLAN

- a. Revision efforts working toward adoption of the plan.*
- b. Strategy for Validating Goals from Draft Open Space Plan.*
- c. Assignment of responsible party for tasks.*

The Commission went through Chapter by Chapter accepting comments from Council and the public.

It was suggested to add facts and highlight what is currently being done and identify successes and note consequences. The more property in conservation the greater the tax burden on others. Currently, 56% of real estate property is non-taxable in the Town of Bar Harbor. Also suggested to note conflicts such as agriculture and residential development in the area of Northeast Creek watershed. Listing buffer zones that currently exists for scenic vistas. Large landowners: Paul MacQuinn, Chris Maller, and David Bowden were present to shared their history and what they have done to protect their generational properties. They offered ideas that could be shared and included in the Plan and should be given recognition for their stewardship accomplishments.

Following comments and suggestions, the Commission members recognized the need to revise the strategies and goals with input from citizens, large private parcel owners, and discuss with Marine Resources Committee regarding waterfront uses and environmental impact to

watersheds. Assessment of goals and strategies with a volunteer approach to provide education and resources for protection or maintenance in land practices. The members view this as a working document for the Conservation Commission rather than an adopted Plan with policies.

They will continue to rework the Plan and return.

IV. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA – None were suggested.

V. ADJOURNMENT – Mr. St. Germain, with second by Mr. Barker, moved to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Patricia A. Gray, Town Clerk