

## **Notes from Bar Harbor Parking Solutions Task Force**

**August 30, 2016**

**Present: Eben Salvatore, Erin Early Ward, John Kelly, Dick Cough, Matt Hochman, Sherry Rasmussen, Martha Searchfield, Cornell Knight, Ron Beard**

**Absent/excused: Jill Goldthwait, Mary Booher, Liz Kase**

Following introductions, Cornell Knight reviewed the mission/charge to the group, as represented in the Task Force By-laws adopted by the Town Council on July 19. He also reviewed the various elements of the recommendations made by consultants that make up the overall parking study commissioned by the Council:

- Establishment of a dedicated parking fund (into which parking-related revenues are deposited and against which parking-related expenses are charged)
- Any ordinance and code amendments to allow for elements of parking program
- On-street paid parking (via smart meters or kiosks)
- Town parking lots (fee for use via kiosks)
- Residential Parking Permit (for in town residential neighborhoods)
- Eventual consideration of a parking garage, based on experience with and revenue from the other elements of the parking program

### **Officers**

The Task Force elected the following officers, as required by the by-laws:

Chair: Eben Salvatore

Vice Chair: Martha Searchfield

Secretary: Sherry Rasmussen

### **Additional areas for consideration / study**

The Task Force will keep a list of additional topics, suggestions for research, possible further solutions to the summer parking problems in Bar Harbor. The following items were added to that list (no priority implied, numbered items for identification only):

1. Review all past studies of parking problems and solutions in Bar Harbor

2. Investigate the role of satellite parking (ferry terminal and other possible locations) as a future phase of solutions that could provide additional parking spaces
3. Consider a public education program to help residents, employers/employees and visitors adopt strategies that reduce automobile use in the down-town of Bar Harbor (walking, biking, Island Explorer, car-pooling, etc.)
4. Consider what may be needed for additional bus/trolley service in downtown Bar Harbor (either with Downeast Transportation or other providers, through public/private partnerships)
5. Recommend additional lots for possible purchase by the Town of Bar Harbor for parking lots
6. Recognize that what the Parking Solutions Task Force recommends will have a bearing on recommendations of the Aging In Place Task Force and other public and private actions, and vice-versa

The Task Force reviewed and amended a draft schedule of future meetings and topics (attached) and decided to meet from 4-5:30 on those dates.

Next meeting is September 13, 4-5:30 in Council Chambers, and will focus on the consultants recommendations for paid on-street parking.

Notes prepared by Ron Beard, Task Force Facilitator

Reviewed by Sherry Rasmussen, Secretary

## **Parking Solutions Task Force Meeting topics and schedule (Autumn 2016)**

- August 30 An overview of the consultant's report and recommendations, so that task force members understand the overall goals of the parking program and how each element of a parking program contributes to those goals; election of chair, vice chair and secretary.
- Sept 13 Consideration of **on-street paid parking** (via smart meters or kiosks) including review of available technology and costs, which streets, enforcement consideration, ordinance changes required, etc. *(Cornell will bring maps and provide background on available parking meters and kiosks)*
- Sept 27 Consideration of **paid parking in town parking lots**, including review of available technology, which parking lots, enforcement considerations, current and improved efficiency, etc.
- Consideration of a draft outline for a "parking fund", similar to the current Cruise Ship Fund, outlining sources of income and possible expenses. (Cornell will provide a draft)
- Oct 11 Consideration of **residential parking permit system**, including how such a system might work, who gets permits (residents, guests, renters), enforcement considerations, etc. *Possible attendance by Police Chief to review overall enforcement concerns/opportunities.*
- Oct 25 Consideration of the current and possible roles of the Downeast Transportation and **Island Explorer** in contributing to solutions to the parking situation (including service to existing or proposed auxiliary parking lots such as Ferry Terminal *(Paul Murphy will be invited to attend)*; update on **Acadia National Park transportation plan** and any implications for parking solutions in Bar Harbor *(John Kelly will present overview)*
- Nov 8 Bringing all the pieces together, **working toward draft task force recommendations** to the Council, including any income projections, ordinance changes, budget implications, schedule for implementation
- Nov 22 Consideration and **finalization of recommendations**
- Dec 6 **Presentation of final recommendations** to Town Council
- Dec 13 Consideration of any discussion or requests by the Town Council, based on Task Force recommendations

