

Minutes
Bar Harbor Cruise Ship Committee
Tuesday, January 04, 2022 @ 3:00 PM
via Zoom Webinar

I. CALL TO ORDER—3:07 PM

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

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

CRUISE SHIP INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES--Also attending were Mike McGary, Eric Dussault and Bari Golin-Blaugrund for CLIA, Captain Thomas Hinderhoffer of the Royal Caribbean Group; Lauren 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—December 9, 2021

Mr. Kelly 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>Disney</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>McFarland</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Dougherty</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>10-0.</u>

IV. STAFF REPORTS—Police Chief Willis and Harbormaster Wharff did not have any new business to report. Finance Director Sarah Gilbert did not have anything to report.

Introductions were made between the Cruise Ship Committee members and new Town Manager Kevin Sutherland.

- V. **REGULAR BUSINESS**—Clarification was needed for members as to read and work with the action items specified by the Town Council for the Cruise Ship Committee. There was also concern expressed how inaccurately the 2019 Survey results were presented.

a. **Possible Recommendations for Town Council**— Proposed Budget Amendment: A motion was made by Dr. Disney to recommend \$25,000.00 to the annual budget for the Local Commercial Fishing Service, and which would increase over time. This was seconded 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>Dougherty</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>10-0.</u>

Chairperson Salvatore proposed to compile information focusing on passenger caps; weekly and seasonal days as ship-free, and number of ships per day; effectiveness and feasibility. A draft copy would be sent to Mike McGary of CLIA.

b. **CLIA Discussion**—Mr. McGary explained the letter that had been sent to the Bar Harbor Town Council as well as the Cruise Ship Committee. Cruise Industry competitors are not legally permitted to collaborate due to antitrust laws. As this restraint may be seen as unresponsive, he wanted to assure the Cruise Ship Committee that the Industry wanted to remain involved in constructive conversation. It was important to be part of the solution for Bar Harbor. While CLIA's attorneys' have advised to look at proposals set forth by the Town Council, Mr. McGary did not feel this was being a part of the discussion. When asked if other ports had implemented monthly passenger caps, Mr. McGary shared that he was not familiar with any. An answer was not given when asked if the Cruise Lines would work with a monthly and daily passenger cap.

- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (UP TO 15 MINUTES)**—Mr. O'Connell shared his feeling of frustration that much of what was discussed did not provide any real answers. He noted that when traveling, brochures for Bar Harbor were abundant with pictures of the town

harbor and ocean. There was not one that had a picture of a cruise ship in the harbor. He also felt the 2019 Survey graph was presented in a misleading and misrepresentative manner.

Mr. Witham also expressed how discouraged he felt by the lack of progress being made, and the Cruise Ship Committee was acting more legally restricted than actually may be. He felt the focus should be about managing ships, and legal opinions that were offered were based on total banning of ships. He also felt the Cruise Ship Industry was too quiet and did not offer any alternatives or consequences.

VII. COMMITTEE COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS—

Ms. Powers asked that that the action item she had presented to the Cruise Ship Committee be added to the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT—5:45 pm. Mr. Smith moved to adjourn with a second by Mr. Kelly.

Lynn Kenison Higgins, Deputy Clerk