

Minutes
Bar Harbor Town Council
By Video Conference
January 5, 2021

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – 5:00 P.M. - In attendance were Councilors Jefferson Dobbs, Matthew Hochman, Valerie Peacock, Gary Friedmann, Joe Minutolo, Erin Cough, Jill Goldthwait; and Town Manager Cornell Knight.
- A. **Excused Absence(s)** – all present.
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** - *The Town Council allows at this time up to fifteen minutes of public comment on any subject not on the agenda and not in litigation with a maximum of three minutes per person. Comments may be emailed in advance to the Council Chair at jdobbs@barharbormaine.gov to be read during the meeting or through the Zoom webinar using the raise hand function.* – Joe Bonaventura supports the idea of affordable housing and asked Council what price range they felt is affordable housing in Bar Harbor. There was some discussion.
- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - December 15, 2020 Regular Meeting**
Mr. Hochman, with second by Mr. Friedmann, moved to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2020 Regular Meeting as presented. Roll Call Vote:
- | | |
|-------------------|----------|
| <u>Dobbs</u> | <u>Y</u> |
| <u>Hochman</u> | <u>Y</u> |
| <u>Peacock</u> | <u>Y</u> |
| <u>Friedmann</u> | <u>Y</u> |
| <u>Minutolo</u> | <u>Y</u> |
| <u>Goldthwait</u> | <u>Y</u> |
| <u>Cough</u> | <u>Y</u> |
- Motion passed 7-0.
- IV. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Mr. Hochman, with second by Ms. Cough, moved to amend the agenda by adding a new item to discuss the Cruise Ship Committee meeting. Roll Call Vote:
- | | |
|-------------------|----------|
| <u>Dobbs</u> | <u>Y</u> |
| <u>Hochman</u> | <u>Y</u> |
| <u>Peacock</u> | <u>Y</u> |
| <u>Friedmann</u> | <u>N</u> |
| <u>Minutolo</u> | <u>Y</u> |
| <u>Goldthwait</u> | <u>Y</u> |
| <u>Cough</u> | <u>Y</u> |
- Motion passed 6-1 (Nay: Friedmann). This will be Item B under Regular Business.
- V. **REGULAR BUSINESS:**
- A. **Solid Waste** – *Update on MRC and recycling program by Bethany Leavitt, PW Director.* Ms. Leavitt summarized her memo and answered Council questions. Mr. Friedmann, with second by Mr. Hochman, moved to thank Bethany Leavitt for the recycling and MRC report. Roll Call Vote:
- | | |
|--------------|----------|
| <u>Dobbs</u> | <u>Y</u> |
|--------------|----------|

Hochman Y
Peacock Y
Friedmann Y
Minutolo Y
Goldthwait Y
Cough Y
Motion passed 7-0.

Ms. Cough, with second by Ms. Goldthwait, moved that this (recycling) goes on the agenda for the Feb 2 meeting. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs Y
Hochman Y
Peacock Y
Friedmann N
Minutolo Y
Goldthwait Y
Cough Y

Motion passed 6-1 (Nay: Friedmann).

- B. Cruise Ship Committee Meeting** – Eben Salvatore, Chair of the Cruise Ship Committee, and Matt Hochman, the Council Representative to the committee, summarized the discussions from the December 16 Cruise Ship Committee Meeting, which was recorded and on the town’s website. Mr. Salvatore stated there are draft minutes but they are not approved yet. They meet next on January 14 at 3:00 and when the minutes are approved they will be widely available. No action taken.

- C. Cruise Ships** – *Set tentative schedule for June vote.* Following discussion, Mr. Friedmann, with second by Mr. Minutolo, moved to hire an experienced professional to design, produce, compile and analyze the responses of a community survey of opinions on cruise ship visitation and to pay for this from the Cruise Ship Fund. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs Y
Hochman Y
Peacock Y
Friedmann Y
Minutolo Y
Goldthwait Y
Cough Y

Motion passed 7-0.

Following the vote, there was discussion on the motion from 12/15/20, especially the timeline. The timeline will be addressed at a future meeting.

- D. Council Meetings** – *Discussion of Zoom vs in person and start times.* Mr. Hochman, with second by Ms. Cough, moved to continue municipal meetings by video conference through March 2. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs Y
Hochman Y

Peacock Y
Friedmann Y
Minutolo Y
Goldthwait Y
Cough Y
Motion passed 7-0.

E. Treasurer's Warrant - *Request of Treasurer to authorize paid bills.* – Mr. Hochman, with second by Mr. Friedmann, moved to sign the Treasurer's Warrants for paid bills. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs Y
Hochman Y
Peacock Y
Friedmann Y
Minutolo Y
Goldthwait Y
Cough Y
Motion passed 7-0.

VI. TOWN MANAGER'S COMMENTS – Mr. Knight reminded Council of their workshop with the Planning Board Thursday at 5:00 by video conference. The town's Fire/EMS workers have all received their vaccines. In fact, all EMS workers on the island have been vaccinated. It was done by town's Fire/EMS workers. The town has yet another lawsuit filed by 10 residents who seek to overturn the Charter Amendments approved by voters in November. The plaintiffs are Michael Good, Jake Jagel, Dessa Dancy, Donna Karlson, Arthur Greif, James Blanchard, Donal Murphy, Pat Murphy, Shaiah Emigh-Doyle, Michael Blythe and Barbara Fenderson. The town's attorney will file a response to the court in due time.

VII. COUNCIL COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Mr. Minutolo would like to see, possibly for the next meeting, all of us as Councilors to work on possible questions to get started on what the questions might be in our community so when we do hire this firm, at least we've started that process on our side so we can react a little quicker. He also wished a Happy New Year to everybody.

Ms. Goldthwait requested for a future agenda the 2021 cruise ship season. Right now, there are 149 ships reserved on Port Call. The community has not yet weighed in on their feelings about having any ships. When that possibility arises, we will begin to hear from people concerned about COVID. Right now, we're putting no limits. Charlie said at the December Cruise Ship Committee meeting that reservations were on hold because we don't know answers to any of the questions we have about whether it's even possible. If suddenly we find out cruise ships can run, are we going to take 149? Are we going to take more reservations? She also reported on work from the Task Force on Climate Emergency. The student presentation given to Council will be given to the community Friday 1/8 at 5pm. You can register through the Climate to Thrive website on their events page. We submitted a piece to the Islander that gives an overview of the work we've been doing and what we think is coming up. We had three vacancies and two people have expressed interest in serving.

Ms. Peacock wished a Happy New Year.

Mr. Hochman commented that in all of these discussions, especially about cruise ships, I'm always happy to see everybody's willingness to listen and really hear what everyone else has to say and take that stuff to heart. Thanks all of you for being willing to listen to opposing views. He wished a Happy New Year and Happy Birthday to Jill.

Mr. Friedmann echoed Matt's wishes.

Mr. Dobbs has been archiving and digitizing stuff from the past 40 years and has the original Bar Harbor recycling program we produced for the town. I will post it so you can see what we used to do 30 years ago when we started recycling. He also wished Happy New Year. He echoed Matt regarding discussions. We're moving ahead, we've always been moving ahead. We're going to solve this problem. The discussion has been great with no yelling. I won't allow yelling.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: (None)

IX. ADJOURNMENT – Mr. Hochman, with second by Mr. Friedmann, moved to adjourn at 7:08 p.m. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs Y

Hochman Y

Peacock Y

Friedmann Y

Minutolo Y

Goldthwait Y

Cough Y

Motion passed 7-0.

Sharon M Linscott, Town Clerk