

Bar Harbor Conservation Commission
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, February 22, 2021
Meeting by Invitation to Zoom Webinar- Starting at 5:30 pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm by Chair Handwerk. Members present: Mike Handwerk, Chair; Kaitlyn Mullen, Vice Chair; Kim Zdenek, Vice Chair; and Jacquie Colburn, Secretary.

II. EXCUSED ABSENCES

There were no excused absences.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT (accessible through Zoom webinar)

To determine possible collaborative projects with the College of the Atlantic (COA) and Acadia National Park (ANP), Stephen Ressel and Jesse Wheeler were invited to participate in the meeting. Together, the members and Mr. Ressel and Mr. Wheeler discussed how and when COA and ANP could acquire more information regarding vernal pools in Bar Harbor and the degree of amphibian use and activity of these aquatic habitats. The group agreed to work with COA students and faculty this spring and ANP staff in future years. (See also OSP discussion below)

Other than Mr. Ressel and Mr. Wheeler, no other members of the public were present.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The members reviewed the draft minutes of the February 8th meeting and a few minor corrections were made. *A motion was made to accept the February 8, 2021 minutes as revised at the meeting. Motion was unanimously approved (4-0).*

V. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Chair Handwerk asked for any revisions or additions to the agenda; there were none. *A motion was made to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion was unanimously approved (4-0).*

VI. ONGOING BUSINESS

- Open Space Plan: Discuss Commission actions with OSP goal/strategy projects, including possible Spring projects and collaboration with COA. Invited participant: Stephen Ressel, Professor of Biology at COA
The Commission, Professor Ressel, and Mr. Wheeler discussed the benefits of having COA students conduct research regarding vernal pools and associated amphibian activity at 3 different locations. After much discussion concerning the logistics and timing of the research and the need to keep students and faculty safe during COVID-19, the group decided to commence this research this Spring starting in Glen Mary Park in Bar Harbor. In future years, it was tentatively agreed to conduct this work along Schooner Head Road and Duck Brook Road in conjunction with the Park Service. Professor Ressel requested that the Commission provide a letter to COA endorsing this collaborative research effort. Chair Handwerk agreed to draft the letter and have the Commission review and approve it at the March 8th meeting.
- Earth Day 2021: Follow-up discussions and direction
Members discussed in detail how the Commission could participate in the proposed COA 2021 virtual Earth Day event. Vice Chair Mullen provided further guidance as to how a virtual event and activity kiosk could work. Vice Chair Mullen and Vice Chair Zdenek recommended that the activity be presented in cooperation with the Bar Harbor Garden Club. The members decided that they would

like to submit an informative PowerPoint presentation to educate property owners about invasive lupines and other non-native spring-time species. Ms. Colburn will contact Ellie White at COA with the Commission's proposed project.

- Conservation Commission: Increase community awareness and Commission membership
Members discussed how best to build community awareness of the Commission and at prior meetings, the acquisition and placement of a bench with an identifying plaque within a town park or on a conservation property within Bar Harbor was proposed. To move this idea forward, Vice Chair Zdenek offered to contact the town Department of Public Works to obtain more information regarding the process and cost associated with a bench installation.

The term of the 4 existing Commission members were discussed and Chair Handwerk indicated that he would not seek re-appointment when his term expires in June. Secretary Colburn stated that while her term also expires in June, that she would be willing to stay on the Commission. To fill the existing and proposed vacancies, members discussed requesting the Town for assistance, placing an article in the Islander newspaper, and reaching out to individuals in the community to determine interest in joining the Commission.

VII. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

For the next meeting, members suggested discussing the following items:

- OSP Status and COA Research Project
- Earth Day 2021
- Pollinator Project
- Commission Membership and Community Awareness
- Budget Items and Discussion

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jacquie Colburn, Secretary*