

Bar Harbor Conservation Commission
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 8, 2021
Meeting by Invitation to Zoom Webinar- Starting at 5:30 pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 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)

No members of the public were present.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The members reviewed the draft minutes of the February 22nd meeting and one spelling error were corrected. *A motion was made to accept the February 22, 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. Review/approve draft informal endorsement of COA vernal pool projects.
The Commission reviewed the letter to Professor Ressel, written by Chair Handwerk, regarding the vernal pool projects that were discussed with Professor Ressel at the March 8th Commission meeting. *A motion was made to adopt the letter. Motion was unanimously approved (4-0).* Chair Handwerk will email the letter and ask the Professor about next steps regarding the project.

- Open Space Plan: Next steps with electronically providing plan to Town Council, including a 3 month update. Review/approve draft 3 month plan update.
The Commission reviewed the 3 month update composed by Chair Handwerk and made a few additional edits/revisions. *A motion was made to adopt the revised update. Motion was unanimously approved (4-0).* Chair Handwerk will provide the update to the Town Council at a future meeting of the Council.

Chair Handwerk also discussed how to move the OSP forward. He stated that the Planning Department had recommended reducing the number of goals contained in the Plan. Before doing so, Chair Handwerk would like to see the Plan put into action and then revisited to determine what goals could be removed, revised, and/or consolidated.

- Conservation Commission: Increase community awareness and Commission membership, including possible purchase of park bench
Members agreed to keep this item on the agenda as there were no updates to membership at this time. Members agreed to pass on the acquisition of a park bench due to the cost but will revisit this idea in the future.

- Earth Day 2021: Follow-up discussions and direction, including collaboration with COA and invasive species information
Members discussed the elements of the invasive species presentation for the COA virtual Earth Day event. Vice Chair Mullen will develop an excel spreadsheet for data collection. Vice Chair Zdenek will send the presentation to the Bar Harbor Garden Club for review and editing and then on to Ellie White at COA. Members agreed to take advantage and utilize the graphic skills of COA students in the project. Secretary Colburn offered to contact former Commission Chair Jesse Wheeler to inform him of the presentation and discuss any suggestions he may have for this and future invasive species projects.

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 7:19 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jacquie Colburn, Secretary*