

**Minutes**  
**Bar Harbor Cruise Ship Committee**  
**Council Chambers**  
**Thursday, September 16, 2021 @ 3:30 PM**

**Attendance:**

Chair Eben Salvatore and committee members Matt Hochman, Larry Sweet, Sandy McFarland, Jeremy Dougherty, Harbormaster Chris Wharff, Police Chief Jim Willis, John Kelly, Amy Powers, Skip Strong, and Lynn Kenison Higgins. Town Manager Cornell Knight also attended the meeting.

Harbormaster Chris Wharff, Police Chief Jim Willis, Skip Strong and Amy Powers are non-voting members. Lynn Kenison Higgins did not vote. The voting membership was six.

Excused were Dr. Jane Disney, Sarah Flink, Martha Searchfield, Greg Gordon, Jennifer Cough, and Ken Smith.

- I. CALL TO ORDER—** 3:30 p.m.
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (UP TO 15 MINUTES)—**Ten people were present choosing not to speak at this time.
- III. PUBLIC HEARING**
  - a. Remote Participation Policy—**Chairperson Salvatore asked Mr. Hochman to address how remote participation would work, having dealt with this issue in the Town Council meeting. Mr. Hochman explained that each committee needed to adopt its own policy. If remote participation was allowed for committee members, public accessibility would also need to be allowed. An accurate role call of voting committee members would be critical. This new State law also requires adequate public notification. When the entire committee is physically present for meetings then remote viewing would not be available for the public. Any committee member requiring remote viewing would then allow same access for the public. Remote viewing only allows audio or video; texting, group chats or emails are not permissible. Members of the public present did not offer any comments. Motion was made by Mr. Sweet to adopt the policy, seconded by Mr. Kelly. Motion passed 6-0.
- IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES (August 5, 2021)—**Minutes were approved 6-0, contingent on two corrections: Mr. Sweet to be added to the attendance list, along with David Witham to the public comment section.

**V. STAFF REPORTS--**Harbor Master Chris Wharff reported that there were a few requests received for the 2023-2024 cruise ship season. At this time, they remain requests not bookings.

**VI. REGULAR BUSINESS**

**a. Review Recent Council Action**—Items from the Town Council Meeting dated August , 2021, were presented to the Cruise Ship Committee. Item 2, Cruise Ship Schedule Review, requires review and discussion between CLIA and the Cruise Ship Committee. Recommendations and possible alternative solutions are the goal to present to the Town Council. The Cruise Ship Committee agreed that any adequate discussion would need to take place with all Committee members present.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (UP TO 15 MINUTES)**—There were a couple of people that expressed confusion regarding the 2022 Bar Harbor Cruise Ship Schedule. Clarification was requested regarding the 87% proposed reduction and how that was derived. Chairperson Salvatore explained how the Town Council’s proposed restrictions generated the current figures reflected on Item B.

Also, clarification was requested regarding how remote viewing would operate in the future. Chairperson Salvatore reaffirmed that when Committee members are present during meetings then remote viewing would not be available to the public and when committee members participate remotely, then it would be available to the public for remote viewing. Mr. Hochman shared how the lack of technological equipment and lack of staffing prevented remote viewing of all meetings. The method for remote viewing would probably be by Zoom.

Another person felt accurate definitions of “season,” “ship size” and “passenger” were critical. While a general understanding does exist, there seems to be a misunderstanding how many details may or may not contribute to each definition. Ms. Powers pointed out how these definitions would also be important when working with the industries.

**VIII. COMMITTEE COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- a.** Cruise Ship Schedule Review
- b.** Small Ship Definition
- c.** Size of Cruise Ship in Designated Anchorage

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**— 5:00 p.m.

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Lynn Kenison Higgins, Deputy Clerk