

**Bar Harbor Conservation Commission
Meeting Agenda
Monday, January 12, 2026
Bar Harbor Town Hall - 3rd Floor Conference Room
5:30 - 6:30pm**

I. Welcome and Call To Order

II. Adoption of the Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes

IV. Public Comment Period

This portion of the agenda is to allow up to 15 minutes of public comment, with a maximum of three minutes per person, on any subject not on the agenda or subject to litigation. Note that the Conservation Commission will usually hear public comments in a like manner, in addition to scheduled public hearings, on any agenda item at the time it is being considered.

V. Regular Business

a. PFAS Educational PFAS project: Hear reports and discuss contents, format, and scope.

VI. Other Business

VII. Member Comments/Suggestions for Future Agenda

VIII. Adjournment

Bar Harbor Conservation Commission Examples and Types of PFAS Educational Materials

Davis Taylor

Jan 2026

-State of Maine

Finding material from the State of Maine for direct citizen education is difficult; there's info for farms (<https://www.maine.gov/dacf/ag/pfas/pfas-response.shtml>), pfas and drinking water (<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/environmental-health/dwp/cet/documents/PFASfaq.pdf>), and technical reports (<https://www.maine.gov/pfastaskforce/materials/report/PFAS-Task-Force-Report-FINAL-Jan2020.pdf>)

About the best I could find was a webpage from Maine DEP, <https://www.maine.gov/dep/spills/topics/pfas/>. It has links to lots of subtopics: "What are PFAS?", "PFAS and Maine DEP," "PFAS and Products," etc. It is not citizen-friendly.

-UMaine and the Margaret Chase Smith Center (MCSC), including *Maine Policy Review* put out scientific and policy papers on pfas, none of which seem intended to educate the public about the basics. MCSC has done several podcasts on pfas, but this presumably is not the venue we want, plus the first one is over 56 minutes long.

-Other Maine organizations: with the exception of MOFGA guidelines for farmers, not much

-U.S. Govt

-EPA

-"PFAS Explained": 4 page pdf, a bit bland, but pretty good. <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-10/final-virtual-pfas-explainer-508.pdf> Downloaded. What are they, are they safe, where are they found, what is the EPA doing about it, and PFAS in your drinking water. A number of other websites (e.g. the City of Salisbury, MD) lead directly to this document. We could do worse.

-above pdf refers to website for updates: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>. Website is busy, has updates, lots of links...some of them go to very technical material, e.g., chemical analysis tools (ChemView). Not particularly helpful

-they also have a fact sheet that says nothing except what they've accomplished, which seems to be a whole bunch of regulatory mumbo jumbo. https://19january2021snapshot.epa.gov/sites/static/files/2021-01/documents/pfas_factsheet_jan2021-v5.pdf They also have a 2 page infographic that is a little more helpful but wastes space touting all the cool things the EPA has done about pfas. https://19january2021snapshot.epa.gov/sites/static/files/2021-01/documents/pfas_factsheet_jan2021-v5.pdf

-National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences: aimed at citizens, but slightly more technical, and in the end just touts what the Institute is doing and how it's helping. https://www.niehs.nih.gov/sites/default/files/health/materials/perfluoroalkyl_and_polyfluoroalkyl_substances_508.pdf (downloaded)

-within the CDC is the ATSDR: Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. They have a pfas webpage: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html> , which mostly has links that get into other pages: about pfas, reducing risk, testing, fast facts, map, exposure assessments, final exposure assessment report, health studies. **Some of these lead to further links, and this website has about the most detailed accessible info.**

-Other state govts:

Lots of states have documents or webpages; a lot of them emphasize what the govt is doing about it, and regulatory issues. Less is just info for citizens.

Here's a Michigan report that dives deep into toxicology and risk issues:

https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/mdhhs/Folder4/Folder21/Folder3/Folder121/Folder2/Folder221/Folder1/Folder321/PFAS_-_Understanding_the_Risk_FINAL.pdf?rev=e7f7ab00f733491993f25db2eec54db4 (downloaded)

-Here is a California State (Water Board) Fact "Sheet" (it's 13 pages)...it has lots of info, gets into details without getting overly technical...but the last 1/3 is focused (again) on the State's response to pfas.

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/docs/translations/PFAS-fact-sheet-english.pdf (downloaded)

-University of Wisconsin 2 page fact sheet, lots of info, **pretty sharp (if somewhat alarming):**

<https://freshwater.wisconsin.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/PFAS-Flyer-Students.pdf>

(downloaded). I obtained the fact sheet from a pfas education workshop

<https://freshwater.wisconsin.edu/pfas-education-workshop/> that has lots of other resources and activities, primarily for students. It's part of the Freshwater Collaborative of Wisconsin.

-A lot of water districts have pfas educational materials. For example,

-Western Municipal Water District, Riverside, CA: website

<https://westernwaterca.gov/515/Understanding-PFAS> that has initial info and then leads to more info, including fact sheets, e.g.

https://westernwaterca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6238/2023_PFAS_FactSheet a two pager that is for citizens yet gets into significant technical detail quickly. And here is a three page FAQ sheet, also effective: https://westernwaterca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6239/2023_PFAS_FAQs

-Many of the water district websites include specific reports on current levels of pfas in the districts' water.

-The Portland Water District page doesn't have any basic info, it assumes consumers know the issue, and the page just reports how PWD is doing (no detectable). They do refer for further info to the American Water Works Association, which just goes to a bunch of legal and regulatory stuff.

-Bangor Water is pretty similar: not much info, just that it's not detectable in their water.

-Other organizations and a general search

-Boston Children's Hospital: 16 pages, starts out really well, gets increasingly wonky as the pages go by. State'-by-state report on New England. From 2020, so a lot has already changed.

-Clean Water Action: <https://cleanwater.org/> ; they have a great fact sheet, https://www.cleanwateraction.org/sites/default/files/MA_FactSheet_PFAS_04.14.20a.pdf and a great info graphic with the same info: https://www.cleanwateraction.org/sites/default/files/Infographic_PFAS_06.15.20a.pdf
These are pretty sharp. They also have a pfas glossary, and water testing glossary, and a shopping guide.

A European group, Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) has a popular infographic: <https://www.env-health.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/FIGO-PFAS-Infographic-FINAL-4.27.2021-scaled.jpg> downloaded as image

Some infographics focused on particular information, like where pfas come from: <https://www.env-health.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/FIGO-PFAS-Infographic-FINAL-4.27.2021-scaled.jpg>

And you can always count on Cohasset: <https://www.cohassetma.gov/ImageRepository/Document?documentID=9572>

-infographics

There are a lot of infographics in pfas. All of these things, webpages, pdfs, infographics and brochures promote the organization as well as educate about pfas. We might as well get on that bandwagon.

In a lot of ways, what we really need is the info that is on infographics. But how to deliver? I would think they can be used on websites, maybe posters scattered about the Town Office? But not something citizens can pick up and peruse at home.

Even if we don't go with an infographic, they demonstrate the categories of information that can be presented.

It looks like there's some accessible software (Adobe InDesign, Canva, Google Slides, Google Drawings) to convert infographics into brochures. We could probably ask ChatGPT to do it, too.

-Some organizations have tri-fold brochures ready to go, though none of them are generic.

-here's one from the State of Alaska: <https://www.google.com/url?client=internal-element-cse&cx=008080216108132294081:vx9j6xkev2u&q=https://dec.alaska.gov/media/20034/pfas-trifold.pdf&sa=U&ved=2ahUKEwjI3IWLrPyRAxV1KfkFHYCVG84QFnoECAIQAA&usg=AOvVaw2qtoUFHcscZgxrclx4QIO>

-there were a few others ready to go, but not downloadable as pdfs e.g., <https://healthtools.dhw.idaho.gov/products/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-drinking-water>