

**Minutes**  
**Bar Harbor Town Council**  
**Special Meeting by video conferencing**  
**March 30, 2020**

- I. CALL TO ORDER – 1:00 p.m.** In attendance were Councilors Jefferson Dobbs, Matthew Hochman, Stephen Coston, Gary Friedmann, Joe Minutolo, Jill Goldthwait, Erin Cough; and Town Manager Cornell Knight.

Also participating were MDI Hospital CEO Art Blank, Hospital Infection Preventionist Barbara MacPike, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Alf Anderson, Police Chief Jim Willis, Fire Chief Matt Bartlett and Town Clerk Sharon Linscott.

**II. REGULAR BUSINESS:**

Briefings:

1. *Art Blank, President/Chief Executive Officer, MDI Hospital*  
Mr. Blank and Ms. MacPike provided an update and addressed Council comments and questions. No action taken.
2. *Town emergency team*  
Mr. Knight, Chief Willis and Chief Bartlett provided updates. No action taken.
3. *Food and other essential supplies*  
Mr. Knight provided an update. No action taken.
4. *Possible motion to extend Public Closure of municipal facilities thru April 13, 2020.*  
Mr. Friedmann, with second by Mr. Hochman, moved to extend the Public Closure of municipal facilities, playgrounds and public restrooms thru April 13, 2020. Roll Call Vote:  
Dobbs            Y  
Hochman        Y  
Coston           Y  
Friedmann      Y  
Minutolo        Y  
Goldthwait     Y  
Cough            Y  
Motion passed 7-0.

Ms. Cough, with second by Mr. Hochman, moved to extend the services as documented in the Emergency Ordinance through April 30 and strike the sentence under Planning and Codes regarding Planning Board and Design Review Board meetings being cancelled. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs            Y  
Hochman        Y  
Coston           Y  
Friedmann      Y  
Minutolo        Y  
Goldthwait     Y

Cough            Y  
Motion passed 7-0.

Discussion items:

- 1. *Influx of visitors - impact on local supplies/services - any action needed?*

Mr. Anderson, Mr. Knight and Chief Bartlett participated in the discussion. Mr. Friedmann, with second by Mr. Hochman, moved that In the interest of public safety and in an effort to preserve the success of our summer season, the Town Council suspends all occupancy for transient accommodations, vacation rentals and campgrounds for non-essential travel effective April 8 thru April 30. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs            Y

Hochman        N

Coston          N

Friedmann     Y

Minutolo        Y

Goldthwait     Y

Cough           N

Motion passed 4-3.

- 2. *Cruise ships - need to extend the April ban? Or give a date by which we will decide?*

Mr. Hochman, with second by Mr. Friedmann, moved to table this item to April. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs            Y

Hochman        Y

Coston          Y

Friedmann     Y

Minutolo        Y

Goldthwait     Y

Cough           Y

Motion passed 7-0.

- 3. *Response to citizen inquiries - most common/recent questions*

It was agreed this was covered previously. No action taken.

- 4. *Mandating social distancing inside buildings. If there is a line, people must be 6' apart in all directions.*

Since many businesses are doing this, no action taken.

- 5. *Stop new essential services from opening for the season including restaurants, lodging, and food prep. Set a date of March 24, 2020 they would have had to be open for the season.*

Clarification was provided by Ms. Cough on this item because it generated a lot of emails. No action taken.

- 6. *Discuss what we can do about non-essential businesses using loopholes in the state closure mandate to stay open.*

Per Mr. Hochman this situation has changed. No action taken.

- 7. *Discuss and review the Emergency Operations Plan.*

This is posted online. No action taken.

- 8. *Discuss whether to hold a regular Council meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup>.*  
Council agreed to hold a regular meeting by video conference on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.
- 9. *Acadia National Park Closure*  
Since the park is now closed, no action taken. Council expressed thanks to the Superintendent.
- 10. *A letter to visitors, residents and seasonal residents discouraging travel.*  
Mr. Coston, with second by Ms. Goldthwait, moved to table item 10 to April 7. Roll Call Vote:  

<u>Dobbs</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Hochman</u>	<u>N</u>
<u>Coston</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 6-1.

- 11. *Task Force on the Climate Emergency – Review changes to bylaws and possible motion to amend. Following the proposed amendment, Appointments Committee recommendations to appoint the following:*
  - i. *Brian Booher, term expiring July 31, 2021*
  - ii. *Norman Burdzel, term expiring July 31, 2021*
  - iii. *Tobin Peacock, term expiring July 31, 2021*
  - iv. *Darron Collins, term expiring July 31, 2022*
  - v. *Spencer Gray, term expiring July 31, 2022*
  - vi. *Tom St. Germain, term expiring July 31, 2023*
  - vii. *Jennifer Crandall, term expiring July 31, 2023*
  - viii. *Margaret Jeffery, term expiring July 31, 2023*
  - ix. *Sirohi Kumar, Student Representative, term expiring July 31, 2022*
  - x. *Jill Goldthwait, Town Councilor, term expiring June 9, 2020*

- 12. *Cruise Ship Committee Appointment- John Kelly, ANP Representative term expiring July 31, 2020.*  
Mr. Hochman, with second by Mr. Coston, moved to table items 11 and 12 to our April 7 meeting. Roll Call Vote:  

<u>Dobbs</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Hochman</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Coston</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.

Mr. Coston, with second by Mr. Hochman, moved to add Council Comments. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs Y

Hochman Y

Coston Y

Friedmann Y

Minutolo Y

Goldthwait Y

Cough Y

Motion passed 7-0.

**Mr. Coston** spoke about Ellsworth hotels accepting visitors and the increase in the number of interactions a person will have making multiple trips on/off the island. The decision felt right but unintended consequences are still consequences.

**Ms. Cough** expressed feedback shared with her that this happened during our shoulder season rather than July and August. She expressed concerns about flattening the curve now but a potential spike afterwards and the need to give guidelines to businesses on how to properly sanitize and proactively address this later this season.

**Mr. Minutolo** expressed a multitude of thanks.

**Mr. Hochman** added his list of thanks and encouraged people to continue to comment as ask questions, it is appreciated. Also to be kind to each other.

**Mr. Dobbs** echoed thanks, adding that the message we are sending is we're thoughtful to everyone's feelings regardless of how we vote.

**III. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Hochman, with second by Mr. Friedmann, moved to adjourn at 5:05pm. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs Y

Hochman Y

Coston Y

Friedmann Y

Minutolo Y

Goldthwait Y

Cough Y

Motion passed 7-0.

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Sharon M. Linscott, Town Clerk