

Bar Harbor Conservation Commission
Workshop Notes
Monday, May 15, 2023
Bar Harbor Town Hall - 3rd Floor Conference Room
5:30 - 7:30pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

The workshop was called to order at 5:35 pm by Acting Chair Jacquie Colburn.

Members present: Acting Chair and Secretary Jacquie Colburn, Christian Barter, member and Ted Koffman, member.

Guests present: Lucian Smith, town resident

Note: Since the Commission consists of 3 members, a quorum does not exist.

II. EXCUSED ABSENCES

There were no excused absences.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lucian Smith, owner of Smith Farm on Crooked Road attended the workshop. Mr. Smith introduced himself and explained his background and interest in environmental and conservation related issues. He is particularly concerned about groundwater quantity and quality, bicycling safety especially on Crooked Road, and impacts from and management of invasive species such as Browntail Moth.

IV. REVIEW OF WORKSHOP NOTES

The January, February, and March workshop notes were reviewed by the members. No revisions were needed.

V. REVIEW OF THE AGENDA

The members reviewed the May 15, 2023, Workshop agenda; members agreed to add an item – COA Active Transportation Plan, May 2022.

VI. ONGOING BUSINESS

• 2035 Comprehensive Plan

Ms. Colburn explained that at the most recent meeting of the Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC), the attendees discussed the advertising, format, and content of the upcoming public outreach sessions. Specifically, the members reviewed and discussed the draft Vision Statement and Future Land Use maps which will be presented at the outreach sessions to solicit feedback and input from community members.

• Membership

Mr. Koffman indicated that he had nothing new to report.

• Budget

Ms. Colburn said that to the best of her knowledge, there had been no changes to the Commission budget since the last meeting.

• Commission Work Plan

Members reviewed but didn't modify the draft plan and questioned whether planning staff might be able to attend future meetings.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- Follow-up to April Workshop with COA

Members agreed that the April workshop with COA was very useful and that there are numerous opportunities for collaboration. The question is what to focus on given that there are only 3 members of the commission. They concurred that learning more about the COA GIS lab and what data and information is housed there would be a good first step. Ms. Colburn offered to contact Gordon Longworth, GIS Lab Director to arrange a future meeting.

- COA Active Transportation Plan

Ms. Barter led a discussion regarding the Active Transportation Plan presentation prepared by COA students. Mr. Koffman then offered to contact Ken Cline, Professor of Law and Public Policy, to learn more about COA student projects pertaining to transportation and to ask Mr. Cline and students to attend a future meeting.

- Email to town re: Cromwell Brook

Ms. Colburn stated that she had been copied on a reply to an email sent by a resident to the Planning Department regarding a pile of soil with no silt fencing to prevent runoff into Cromwell Harbor Brook. Per the response from the Town, the issue is being addressed. Ms. Colburn offered the commission's assistance; however, no request was received.

- June workshop

The members agreed to cancel the June and possibly the August workshops because some members would not be available.

VIII. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

In addition to the above, other items may also be included on the next agenda.

IX. ADJOURN

The workshop adjourned at 7:15pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jacquie Colburn, Secretary*