

**Bar Harbor Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 11, 2022
Conference Room – Municipal Building
93 Cottage Street
5:30pm**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:31pm by Co-Chair Kim Zdenek.

Members present: Co-Chair Kaitlyn Mullen, Jacquie Colburn, Secretary, Christian Barter, member and Ted Koffman, member.

Guests present: Steve Fuller, Assistant Town Planner.

II. EXCUSED ABSENCES

There were no excused absences.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The members reviewed the draft minutes of the June 6th meeting, two very minor revisions were made. *A motion was made and seconded to accept the June 6, 2022 minutes as revised. Motion was unanimously approved (5-0).*

V. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The members reviewed the meeting agenda. Since the co-chairs were both not seeking reappointment, one item was added (Election of Chairperson). *A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda with this addition. Motion was unanimously approved (5-0).*

VI. ONGOING BUSINESS

• Open Space Plan

With the conversation the Commission had with Ms. Gagnon, Town Planner, at the June meeting, Co-Chair Zdenek opened the discussion by asking what can the Commission do to help implement the Plan. Ms. Colburn expressed interest in acquiring GIS based maps to help the members better understand existing site characteristics as they pertain to future housing. Mr. Koffman discussed the work of Island Housing Trust to establish Jones Marsh, an affordable workforce housing development located near the head of the island. Further, he recommended visiting the development and speaking with the Director of IHT as well as retired Maine Planning Office employees to collect their expertise on affordable housing. Members also discussed the effect that regulations and ordinances have on development in areas such as Northeast Creek. Opportunities to utilize community septic systems as alternatives to traditional subdivision designs, phosphorus and nitrogen loading, as well as other nutrient contributions to waterbodies were also discussed. Mr. Barter suggested that we need to identify the type of development that will allow us to live here while at the same time minimizing the impacts of that development. Other ideas that were discussed included such things as the maintenance or creation of vegetated buffer strips, maintaining existing wildlife migration corridors, and allowing for smaller lot sizes.

• Comprehensive Plan

Ms. Colburn and Mr. Fuller provided an update to the members. At the most recent meeting of the Comprehensive Plan Committee, the committee, planning department staff, and the consultants were making revisions to the Existing Conditions report, and they finalized plans for the two public forums which will be held in late October. They also reported that to inform the public of the Plan and to solicit public input, members of the committee have and will continue to host a table/booth at various public events throughout the fall.

- Membership

Election of Commission Chair. Co-Chair Zdenek asked if any member would like to volunteer to be Chair; none did. Ms. Colburn agreed to act as Interim Chair in addition to being the Commission Secretary. *A motion was made and seconded that Ms. Colburn would be the Interim Chair. Motion was unanimously approved (5-0).*

A brief, general discussion was conducted regarding membership. Until a fourth individual is willing to serve on the commission, the three existing members do not constitute a quorum and no votes can be conducted.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

VIII. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

A recommendation was made to invite a guest to future meetings to speak with the commission about environmental and related topics concerning the town and the region.

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

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The three remaining members of the commission thanked Ms. Zdenek and Ms. Mullen for their service to the commission and the Town of Bar Harbor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jacquie Colburn, Secretary*