

**Minutes**  
**Bar Harbor Cruise Ship Committee**  
**Friday September 16, 2022 @ 4:00 PM**  
**Via Zoom Webinar**

**I. CALL TO ORDER—4:07pm**

- a. Excused Absences—Chief Jim Willis, Ken Smith, Jennifer Cough, Larry Sweet, Greg Gordon, John Kelly
- b. Present--Chairperson Martha Searchfield, Council member Matt Hochman, Sandy McFarland, Jeremy Dougherty, Eben Salvatore, Skip Strong, Harbor Master Chris Wharff, Amy Powers, Sara Flink,  
Nonvoting members are Skip Strong, Harbor Master Chris Wharff, Amy Powers and Sara Flink. Lynn Kenison Higgins does not vote.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (UP TO 15 MINUTES)**

Jim O’Connell shared an EPA finding with the Cruise Ship Committee regarding the severity and how far reaching sulfur emissions are from idling cruise ships.

**III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES—August 10, 2022**

The motion was made by Sandy McFarland to approve the minutes as is, with a second by Matt Hochman.

<u>Searchfield</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Salvatore</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Hochman</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>McFarland</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Dougherty</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Motion passed</u>	<u>5-0.</u>

**IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The motion was made by Matt Hochman to adopt the agenda with an addition to Regular Business (d. Complaints and Concerns Program.) There was a second from Eben Salvatore.

<u>Searchfield</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Salvatore</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Hochman</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>McFarland</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Dougherty</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Motion passed</u>	<u>5-0.</u>

**V. STAFF REPORTS—**

- a. Update on MOU. Harbor Master Wharff reported that the MOA has been drafted by Town Manager Kevin Sutherland and the Town Council, and any comment at this time would be premature. Overall, the staff have done well, and the congestion has been better than past seasons with disembarking at the Harborside. Ms. Searchfield commended the parking team and the improvements made to decrease issues.
- b.

**VI. REGULAR BUSINESS—**

- a. Review of Season—Eben Salvatore reported that the Town Council Agenda includes a request for authorization to sign the MOA from Town Manager Sutherland. Mr. Salvatore also reiterated that coordinating changes brought about from the 2019 survey, and responding to any impacts created, were addressed due to the great work of the hardworking staff.
- b. Discuss Requested Visits Denied for 2023 Season—Reservations are accepted until the caps are achieved and first come first served. For example, July and August of 2024 caps were hit in 2021 when this policy was implemented. September and October reservations are well over the caps. Any ships already booked for April and November would remain. Twenty-eight ships have been eliminated for the 2023 season.
- c. Discuss Impact of Proposed Ban on Cruise Ships for April and November—Many businesses are interested in any possible impacts. Any ships already booked would remain despite staffing issues for the times of year. Any further discussions would resume after the November 8<sup>th</sup> election results.
- d. Complaints and Concerns Program for Bar Harbor—Also referred to as the Tourism Hotline. Amy Powers shared how this position would be more efficient if it was a regular staff position and not a volunteer position, to ensure consistency and reliability.
- e.

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS—**Any Powers and Sara Flink reported about the preliminary stages and recent Shore Power tour in Portland. An environmental program is included with Shore Power; the DEP would do an air quality test on days a cruise ship would be in port. Ms. Powers and Ms. Flink felt this was a very beneficial program for Bar Harbor. Ms. Searchfield felt more information would be nice for her own curiosity.

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (UP TO 15 MINUTES)—**Mr. O’Connell shared that it was his understanding how residents of Juneau were not in favor of Shore power and that it was too expensive. He did not feel that it was a viable consideration for Bar Harbor.

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

- a. Invite Town Manager Mr. Sutherland to discuss April & November
- b. Juneau Discussion
- c.

**X. ADJOURNMENT—5:15pm**

Motion presented by Matt Hochman to adjourn the meeting with a second by Eben Salvatore.

<u>Searchfield</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Salvatore</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Hochman</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>McFarland</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Dougherty</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Motion passed</u>	<u>5-0.</u>