

Manager's Office
Municipal Building
93 Cottage Street
Bar Harbor, ME 04069



Kevin L. Sutherland
Town Manager
manager@barharbormaine.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Bar Harbor Town Council
cc: Department Heads
From: Kevin Sutherland, Town Manager
Date: May 10, 2022
Re: Manager Update

Emergency Water Shutoff Along Main Street

In the process of replacing an old fire hydrant today, the shut off valves which would have isolated the replacement failed. We had to quickly mobilize an emergency dig at the intersection of Cottage and Main Street. This effort will likely take us through the rest of the afternoon and into the evening. Staff have notified impacted businesses and we've posted to social media and our website about the traffic impacts.

Mask Mandate in Effect for Municipal Facilities

Given the current status of "High risk" for Hancock County, I am requiring all staff and visitors to our public facilities to wear masks when indoors. I hope we can continue to hold our public meetings in person but will advise otherwise if I learn more from our network of public health professionals.

We'll look to re-evaluate on a weekly basis. Here is the link to the US CDC community level check by county: [Know Your COVID-19 Community Level](#)

I would also encourage residents and visitors to mask up when in public settings to protect yourselves and those around you.

Acadia National Park's Town Hill Parcel

Senator Angus King, Chairman of the Senate National Parks Subcommittee, introduced bipartisan legislation to help create more affordable year-round housing. The legislation, which is co-sponsored by Senator Susan Collins, would transfer part of an undeveloped parcel of land in the Village of Town Hill from Acadia National Park to the Town of Bar Harbor for the specific development of affordable housing, while the remainder of the parcel would be used by the National Parks Service (NPS) to construct NPS staff housing. Here's a link to the [press release](#) from Senator King's office.

Conversing with Senator King's staff, we are a long way away from knowing if this change will be approved. Soonest may be by the end of the calendar year.

Nominations for the Legislative Policy Committee

Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) is seeking nominations for the 2022-2024 session.

The LPC serves a critical function as the advocacy arm of the Maine Municipal Association. The purpose of the LPC is to define municipal interests and to maximize those interests through effective participation in the legislative process. Specifically, in consultation with the Executive Committee, the LPC is responsible for:

- Developing and coordinating MMA's legislative policy process; Identifying MMA's advocacy priorities and developing a legislative program;
- Providing direction on legislative strategy to achieve these objectives; and Taking positions on legislative proposals affecting municipalities.

In addition, LPC Representatives are expected to assist MMA staff by acting as municipal advocates at the local level. LPC members are expected to:

Establish ongoing communication with legislators in their Senate districts and inform those legislators about LPC positions; Act as liaisons with municipal officials in their districts; and Keep MMA staff informed of issues of concern. Districts. Representation on the LPC is based on the State Senate districts. Two members are elected from each of the 35 State Senate Districts.

If Councilors are interested in serving or would like to nominate someone (elected officials or appointed individuals (ie – managers)) from our town or any of the other 21 communities in our Senate district, please let me know!