

Parking Solutions Task Force

July 16, 2019 at 4:30 pm

Program Update- Cornell

Items to discuss from previous meetings/emails:

Contractor permit

119 West St. Kiosk location

2 hr parking on West St.

Extended guest permit

Permit abuse, better system

Seasonal pass

Effective dates change, Memorial to October 15th

\$150 non-resident fee.

B & B permit system

Rental properties with no parking

Blinking meters

Kids corner- employees in lots

NPS employee spaces.

Municipal Building meetings

Marathon parking in permit areas

Guest permits for non-residents

Kennebec Street issues

Cornell Knight

From: kidscorner@prexar.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 09, 2019 9:32 AM
To: Cornell Knight
Cc: council@barharbormaine.gov
Subject: Update on parking behind KC

Good Morning,

It's Lori over at Kids' Corner here to give an update on the parking lot located behind the Center.

We are now in the busy season and the lot remains to primarily sit vacant. RV's still use the lot as they have in other years but the parking spots for vehicles remain empty for most of the day. So far, just about the only day that more than one car was parking there was July 5th. Now, this week it is back to sitting empty. I am sure this data is on the kiosk but wanted to share just in case it wasn't.

With this said, I would love to request that this lot be reconsidered. It seems that it should be useful for providing parking in some fashion and if it is not filling the need for paid parking that it be reconsidered and deemed a resident/employee lot or even a joint lot. It just seems a shame for a lot to sit completely empty especially now that it is July. I realize you may not be able to do anything this year but as you look at planning for next year.

Thank you so much for your time on this matter.

Have a wonderful day -
Lori Krupke
Executive Director
Kids' Corner

Cornell Knight

From: Barbara Roth <msblogan@fuse.net>
Sent: Sunday, July 07, 2019 6:48 PM
To: council@barharbormaine.gov
Subject: Parking Permits and Town Parking

First I would like to thank all of you for the time and energy you put into representing the residents of Bar Harbor by serving on the Town Council. You are often faced with challenges and difficult decisions and I have no doubt each of you put a lot of thought into what is best for the town as a whole.

I am sure I am not the first to contact you regarding the parking meters and streets marked off for resident parking only. I am a part time resident of Bar Harbor or according to you Parking Permit online site, I am a nonresident. We have owned our home here for twelve years and have made many friends in that time and have also donated to several nonprofits within the town and on the island. We also volunteer for different groups. We do so because we are proud to be part time residents of such a lovely community and have felt very welcomed by all we have met here.

My issue is that whereas I am willing to pay the cost of what registering a vehicle and the excise tax involved is (although I can't register my car as it is a lease), I do not understand why I should pay \$150.00 to get a permit because of the fact I am a "nonresident". My property taxes are not based on how many months I am on the island which by the way is anywhere from four to five and a half. I know people who rent who are here six month yet are considered residents as they register their car here and get a permit and I know several people who are residents yet are "snowbirds" for three to four months and yet because their vehicle is registered here they get a permit. It is also somewhat disappointing when I go to town to see numerous places to park yet they are all marked resident parking only,

On another note, I can not say that the negative vocalizing as to the meters and kiosks has come from social media as I have only heard it at the YMCA, the Farmer's Market, at my volunteering days, and when socializing with friends/residents. I have heard people come out of businesses where they had to go into get quarters, mumble as to why the meters are so expensive and why can't they use dimes and nickels. Sadly too, I have had friends across the island state they will not meet us for dinner in Bar Harbor as they don't and can't get a permit because they live in one of the other villages (year around).

I do not want Bar Harbor to lose its charm or its vibrant business community nor am I saying I will not come into Bar Harbor but I am asking for the courtesy of paying the same amount as a vehicle registration for the purpose of getting a permit for my vehicle as I would like to be able to continue my volunteering and financial donations to the nonprofit groups within the community. It is my belief that the prompt payment of our property taxes each year and the fact that we have never questioned increases in the taxes for the sake of schools and other issues, has earned us this courtesy.

Thank you for your time and commitment to your town.

Sincerely,
Barbara Roth

Sent from my iPad

Cornell Knight

From: David Rapkievian <rfineviolins@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 05, 2019 11:35 AM
To: council@barharbormaine.gov
Subject: Street Parking Permits

Dear Manager and Town council members,

my wife and I bought a home here in 2008 and have used it as a part time residence since. My wife just retired but I am still working in Maryland where our cars are registered.

We pay property taxes (just like the full time residents) and contribute to the local economy and community in other ways.

We do NOT rent out our house as do some "full time" residents but reserve it for our exclusive use only.

We have many friends on the Island and have them over for dinner occasionally.

We feel it totally unfair and out of line for us to have to pay \$150 for a guest permit just because our cars are not registered in Bar Harbor. At the moment both of our cars are crammed into a drive way meant for only one vehicle.

Is there any way the Town could alleviate this unfair penalty on part-time residents who pay full-time taxes?

Thank you,

David Rapkievian

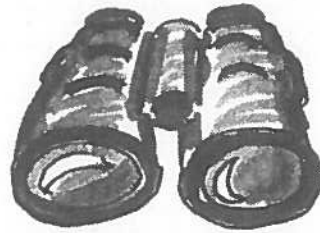
14 School St.

Bar Harbor, ME 04609

Cell phone: 301-461-0690

A DOWNTOWN PARKING MAP

GOOD WALKING SHOES



HOW ABOUT PLENTY OF PATIENCE?

READING MATERIAL

LONG RANGE BINOCULARS TO WATCH FIREWORKS AWAY FROM DOWNTOWN

7-3-19



We are by w darsa of us know very what fascinatin are living there. Other than earning their liv sea most of us se creatures living most creatures a water out of our

My most rew boat trip was "Ed" Monat out bor. He has ma sion for sea life business and he knowledge and on his boat.

I was astou looking at the c ing underwater plored the wate Harbor.

As we watch below us on th saw many sea an low us. These c gorgeous and h real but there tl a spectacular di

It is hard to se ones on your c time it was quit see a local cave resting in it at l too many visi ened to destro national park he to any visitors. would you eve find one in a ti posed when the out or in some h cave crevice left low tide.

A diver frie told me he recer seeing lots of m (Aurelia aurita) weeks. Swimme water sometime these jellyfish f found near the close to shore. touch them for i cause a minor for a few hours.

Sometimes large red jellyfis on the shore. l these, but they ing to see. You nize them by tl tinct moons in t the hell. These a

from the Congress, an istive investigation cond and concluded that no sion occurred.

embers of Congress and s are now charging Presi-Trump with obstruction stice and want him imed.

1 not a lawyer, just a low-thematician, but how can be obstruction of justice there was no underlying and an exhaustive inves-on of the alleged crime uded without interfer-

e Congress is proceeding a dangerous path by at-ing to remove the Presi-out not removing the de-in our system that allow erence in our elections eign powers.

asonable people will ulti-y recognize the absurdity h a path and we may be ted to four more years of

a tweeter-in-chief.

Benson is right about one thing: this controversy is best resolved at the ballot box.

David W. Lind
Bar Harbor

Parking frustration

To the Editor:

Greetings Bar Harbor, Cruise Ship Capital of the World! It's quite obvious from all that you have done and are doing that you have little patience or tolerance for those that really stay in town. You know, the vacation people. The ones who support the stores and restaurants. You are only interested in docking fees and cruise ship passengers.

This all started when these people were brought into town closing piers, using big buses to go up a mountain that is no way intended to handle this type of traffic ... but that's okay

because your getting docking fees ... you pay little attention to residents or visitors and their opinions.

Well, here is mine.

Let me introduce myself, I have been a homeowner here for many years, I also have family that come here and rent to stay at local houses, etc. We come here four times a year staying one to two weeks each visit.

My husband and I work 10-12 hour days five or six days a week. The last thing we want to do is cook, so we don't.

We go out and eat breakfast every day. We also go out and eat dinner every day. If we don't go out we do take out at the restaurants. That doesn't include what we purchase at the supermarket to take with us for lunches when biking and hiking.

On average we have spent over the last 5 years just at res-

taurants \$2,500 for our two-week vacation. We are a restaurant's dream.

Here is how I just spent my first visit of the season. I arrived in town at 6 p.m. and parked at the pier. Had to look for the stand to pay to park. Took out my card, put it in the machine and learned I had to put in my license plate number (why I don't know).

To avoid walking back to my car, I then put in four quarters. Nothing happened. I lost the four quarters. So then I walked back to my car to get the license plate numbers, walked back to put in my credit card, walked back to my car to put the stub in my window, then walked to the restaurant.

On our first day here, we paid extra to shop the stores to get it all done in one day. We never returned to pay for parking to shop at the local see **LETTERS** page 12

Viewpoint

g-government opponents can't have it both ways

Talk about curbing big government is misleading. Federal deregulation of freight rail is impossible without federal government

the Arctic wildlife preserve and to build pipelines to bring crude oil to market. On the other end of the petro pipeline, deregulatory and shareholder enthusiasm propel the demand that California relax fuel

1: Neutrality LETTERS/11: Islander readers write

the rules that protect a free and open internet for Maine people.”

protect a free and open internet for Maine people.”

The law could be open to challenges — Vermont and California both agreed to suspend enforcement of similar laws after they were challenged in court by a group of broadband industry lobbying groups.

The FCC has been battling in court with public interest groups and companies seeking to restore net neutrality, and the United States Department of Justice sued California over its law, arguing that it conflicts with federal rules.

This hasn't deterred local legislators: according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 29 states introduced some type of net neutrality legislation in the 2019 session. Attempts to restore net neutrality have passed the U.S. House but were, in the words of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, "dead-on-arrival" in the Senate. President Donald Trump has vowed to veto any such legislation.

"While this legislation will not protect consumers in the comprehensive way that the FCC is able to, it is one step that Maine can take to maintain net neutrality," Grohoski said.

"Maine is leading the way and showing internet consumers that we care about their right to access this critical utility."

stores.

Sorry, store owners, this is what your town has done for you. If I needed something downtown, I would have my husband drop me off, run into Sherman's or for food pickup, I would have my husband drive around and come back and pick me up in 15 minutes.

For breakfasts, I started arriving by 8 a.m. to get into the restaurant and leave by 9 a.m. so I did not have to pay for parking. I should not have to get up that early when I'm on vacation. That wore thin, so by the fourth day we stopped going into town at all for breakfast.

Unless a restaurant had parking like Café This Way or the Bar Harbor Inn or The Looking Glass Restaurant at the WonderView Inn we were not going.

For dinner the same thing occurred, and by the third day we stopped completely. We ate at establishments that had parking: Mama DeMatteo's, Bar Harbor Inn and the Looking Glass. We also ate at the restaurants that line Route 233, Route 198 and Route 3, and we ate in Southwest Harbor.

We calculated that if we continued with the same routine we did for years, two weeks of parking just for

breakfast and dinner the cost would be \$140.

Multiply that by two more weeks during the season and that's \$280. Are you kidding me? I will not be paying that, therefore, I will not be going into town.

If you review the loss to the restaurants just from my husband and I for four weeks that's almost \$5,000 that I will not be spending at the restaurants this year.

I just read the article on the front page of the June 20 newspaper, Bar Harbor will reach \$1 million in revenue this year in parking fees. Congratulations, Bar Harbor, you are doing it on the backs of the locals, business owners and people who own second homes that come here every year.

You certainly have ruined our vacation time here as well. Instead of coming up with a solution, you want to penalize the very people that need people to come into town to spend money so shops can survive.

I have two more trips left this year and we will not be going into town like we used

to in order to go out to eat. We have completed our buying at the shops as well for the year and will not be going into any stores during our visits.

If you think people are going to bike in or use the bus, think again. I didn't drive here 12 hours to be inconvenienced, while you try to dictate how I can and should come into town. You need to see the forest for the trees and start seeing and hearing the other side, the locals, the homeowners and the vacation guests.

People are quite annoyed with your system and so am I. \$2 per hour is outrageous, I will not be paying it and I won't be going into town like we used to. Continue down this path and you won't have a downtown area. Business are certainly going to suffer as are visitors.

I can't wait to see how your reservation system is going to ruin the visits to the park. I will hold my comments on that until this system is implemented.

Barbara Cusumano
Marlton, N.J.

end the take the parking 5-1 vote. Cough, Minuto-voted in dissent-

Cornell ers and nmed to ment by app will

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SOURCE SPEAKE

Cornell Knight

From: Martha Williams <marty@donnellpond.com>
Sent: Friday, July 12, 2019 4:38 PM
To: ronald.beard@maine.edu; council@barharbormaine.gov; ebensalvatore@hotmail.com
Subject: Parking on Kennebec

Ron or Eben, please forward to the rest of the Parking Solutions Task Force. I couldn't find a group email for the task force.

First of all, thank you for the work you do as good citizens looking after the best interests of Bar Harbor. Volunteering for the Task Force is not an easy job, and probably makes you no new friends. I know you have spent a lot of time, and we are in the first pass for a parking solution. Remember when we made Cottage Street one way? So here is some input from me on how parking on Kennebec is not so good.

I live on Kennebec Street, and if you do social media, you have probably seen some of my comments about the new parking regulations.

I voted for parking meters because I interpreted residential permits to mean a permit for a resident to park on the street where the resident resided, not for anywhere in the town. Foolish me. Many towns and cities do this, so it is not an entirely silly idea but perhaps I should have delved further.

Kennebec has long been the de facto parking lot for employees and Reel Pizza but with the new parking regulations, it is now the town sanctioned parking lot for people who live on Norway Drive, Indian Point, or anyone else who lives out of town or doesn't want to walk.

Let me tell you about Kennebec Street. Kennebec is a city street, maximizing density so that more people can live within the village. The lot layout was developed before every household had two cars. The lots are small. There are shared driveways between houses. That means I share my driveway with my neighbors, the Ressels. It also means I cannot stack cars, one after the other, without blocking my neighbor. The Allen and Nolan houses also share a driveway. Then there is Rudy A. (#9) at the head of the street with an ill defined driveway on the right side (the parking side) so he resorts to cones to keep his driveway open. Many houses have room for only a single car. #16, Peter and Ursala S., don't actually have a driveway but park in the front yard, and use #14 driveway to get in.

Kennebec Street is one the few remaining streets in Bar Harbor that is primarily year round, an important asset in Bar Harbor. Please don't make it harder to be a year round housing asset.

It is a pretty street with green front lawns. Should the residents request curb cuts and fill our front lawns with gravel similar to Roberts Avenue and High Street? Think how much you enjoy every bit of green that you see in Bar Harbor. Should we be reimbursed for this expense, since otherwise, the new regulation has essentially devalued our property?

So what is the solution? In a dream world, Kennebec Street would be parking for Kennebec residents only. Maybe there is a compromise, where some spots are left open; some designated for residents only. Maybe a parking garage for employees. Maybe stores without parking should help pay for that garage. More buses? More satellite parking?

But do NOT say the parking system is "working as planned". It might be working for you folks that live out of town and park on Kennebec, but it is definitely NOT WORKING for the residents of town streets, especially those close to downtown. It has not made things better, it has made things worse.

Parking on Kennebec isn't the only issue. My daughter, born and raised in Bar Harbor, loves to take the kids to Glen Mary wading pool when she visits. How is she supposed to do that with the rental car? It's not like street parking is over subscribed there, but she doesn't want a ticket.

Bar Harbor residential parking restrictions drives a parochial wedge between Bar Harbor and the other towns of the island. And then we blend the kids at the high school and expect them to get along.

Let's work on more and better parking solutions. Let's figure out if we are looking for a parking solution, or a way to make money. Let's think a bit more about what works for the people directly affected.

Thank you for reading my letter.

Marty Williams

Martha Williams
17 Kennebec St.
Bar Harbor, ME 04609
207-801-1488