

Agenda
Special Bar Harbor Town Council Meeting
Joint Meeting with Warrant Committee
March 23, 2021

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – 7:00 p.m. by Zoom
- II. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
- III. **REGULAR BUSINESS:**
 - A. **FY22 Budget**
 - 1. **Budget Adjustments** – Consideration and possible adoption of budget adjustments recommended by the Warrant Committee.
 - 2. **Other Recommendations** – Possible other recommendations or suggestions.
 - 3. **Article 2 LUO Amendment: Signage-** Possible motion to remove from the Town Meeting Warrant.
- IV. **TOWN MANAGER’S COMMENTS**
- V. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**
- VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

To ensure your full participation in this meeting, please inform us of any special requirements you might have due to a disability. Call 207-288-4098

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TOWN OF BAR HARBOR

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March 23, 2021

MEMO

To Town Council

From Cornell Knight, Town Manager



Re: LUO Amendment

Attached is an email Asst Planner Steve Fuller sent to the Chair of the Warrant Committee yesterday after we heard from the Town Attorney that there should be a clearer message on the mailer to residents when calling for the public hearing. The process can start over possibly for the November meeting. Because of the short time frame before approving the Warrant (your next regular meeting), I am asking that this item be added to the agenda this evening.

Actions to take: Request that Article 2 LUO Amendment Signage be added to the agenda.

A Possible motion: to approve the agenda as amended.

A possible motion: To remove Article 2 LUO Amendment Signage from the June 2021 Town Meeting Warrant.

Cornell Knight

From: Steve Fuller
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 4:44 PM
To: Seth E. Libby; Carol Chappell
Cc: Cornell Knight; Michele Gagnon
Subject: Two Article 2 Warrant Committee matters

Good afternoon, Seth and Carol:

I am writing to you as chairpersons of the Warrant Committee and General Government Subcommittee, respectively, on two matters relating to Article 2 (the proposed Signage LUO amendment).

At the March 18 meeting of the General Government Subcommittee, a question was raised about the wording of the public notice and warrant article provided for the proposed amendment.

Specifically, the question related to whether the wording should have referenced neon signs in particular and whether the proposed changes that would make the use of neon vacancy/no vacancy signs permissible in districts where not presently allowed required more specific notice to residents.

The town attorney has advised us that the notice that was posted, published and sent to every property owner in town might be, in and of itself, legally sufficient, but that he believes that the town could be subject to legal challenge and that such a challenge, if one were filed, could be successful in light of previous legal findings.

As such, we respectfully request that the Warrant Committee consider tabling making a recommendation on Article 2 at its meeting tonight.

This matter should now be brought to the Town Council, which ultimately determines the composition of the warrant, so that it may consider the appropriate action at this time.

Separately, I did want to address one important issue which I saw was raised in several emails earlier today. To clarify, vacation rentals are not considered transient accommodations under the Land Use Ordinance.

As such, vacation rentals would not be able to avail themselves of the expanded neon vacancy/no vacancy sign provision if it were approved and enacted.

Thank you.

- Steve

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