

Minutes
Bar Harbor Cruise Ship Committee
Tuesday, January 11, 2022 @ 3:00 PM
via Zoom Webinar

I. CALL TO ORDER—3:00 PM

Excused Absence: Jeremy Dougherty, Harbor Master Chris Wharff. Late arrival Dr. Jane Disney.

Attendance: Cruise Ship Committee Members- Chair Person Eben Salvatore, Councilor Matt Hochman, Larry Sweet, Sandy McFarland, Martha Searchfield, Dr. Jane Disney, Sarah Flink, Ken Smith, Greg Gordon, Police Chief Jim Willis, John Kelly, Amy Powers, Skip Strong, Jen Cough, Town Manager Kevin Sutherland, and Lynn Kenison Higgins.

Police Chief Jim Willis, Sarah Flink, Greg Gordon, Skip Strong and Amy Powers are non-voting members. Town Manager Kevin Sutherland and Lynn Kenison Higgins did not vote. The voting membership was nine.

CRUISE SHIP INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES--Also attending were Mike McGarry and Eric Dussault for CLIA, Captain Thomas Hinderhoffer of the Royal Caribbean Group; Glenn Tucker, Laurie Clothier, Jenifer Trautwein, Brian Beall, Faith DeAmbrose, Reed Linsk, and Harold Quesada.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (UP TO 15 MINUTES)—There were not any public comments.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES—January 4, 2022

Mr. Smith made the motion to approve the minutes with a second by Mr. Sweet.

<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>Smith</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Sweet</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Kelly</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Cough</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Motion passed</u>	<u>8-0.</u>

Dr. Disney made the motion to reconsider the minutes for corrections, with a second by Mr. Hochman. Mr. Smith then made the motion to approve minutes contingent upon corrections with a second by Mr. Sweet.

<u>Searchfield</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Salvatore</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Hochman</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Disney</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>McFarland</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Cough</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Smith</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Sweet</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Kelly</u>	<u>Y</u>

Motion passed 9-0.

IV. STAFF REPORTS—Town Manager Kevin Sutherland reported that the Town Council will meet Tuesday, January 25 via Zoom, and the access information will be made available for the public. There were not any other staff reports.

V. REGULAR BUSINESS—

a. Review of 2022 Guide—Motion was made by Mr. Smith to present this guide as is to the Town Council, and seconded by Mr. Kelly.

<u>Searchfield</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Salvatore</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Hochman</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Disney</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>McFarland</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Smith</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Sweet</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Kelly</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Cough</u>	<u>Y</u>

Motion passed 9-0.

b. Continue Discussion of Draft Feasibility—Discussion focused on September and October workability with Saturdays designated as an off-day for cruise ships. It was acknowledged that feedback would be needed from the Cruise ship Industry. It was also viewed as potentially working well for Town Department staff such as Police, Harbor and Parking, as well as the Fire. Chief Willis explained that in the past Police staff worked overtime on cruise ship days, supervising parking and traffic at the pier. Today due to understaffing in the above- mentioned departments, Saturdays off would help with scheduling issues.

Mr. Strong pointed out a potential pitfall with “small ships” that could arrive, not being included under the same restraints as large ships. Even small ships require some of the same services from the Town and therefore would not actually be a day off. A more accurate definition is

required for “no ship” day. He also commented how a small ship with a foreign flag requires a pilot, and that there was an operational concern if more than four such ships arrived on any day. This would drastically affect no ship day. Ms. Flink shared her discussion with Harbor Master Wharff and his recommendation of only 2 ships at Anchorage A. Dr. Disney felt that the language was also confusing. Clarification would be needed to better inform the public that there would be “no ship” days or “small ship” days. She also recommended assigning small ship days along with no ship days in order to assess public feeling. Ms. Cough questioned how Saturday was chosen as the best day off of the week; feeling that for some businesses Saturdays were not the busiest day of the week and would benefit from cruise ship arrivals. Mr. Kelly also shared that Saturdays are not the busiest day of the week for Acadia National Park, which is a destination of many cruise passengers.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (UP TO 15 MINUTES)—Mr. O’Connell shared his disappointment that the Cruise Ship Committee would recommend less of a decrease than the Town Council had originally considered.

VII. COMMITTEE COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS—Chairperson Salvatore will finalize Feasibility draft for review. This draft will then be presented to the Cruise Ship Industry for their feed-back. Initial recommendations will be completed to present to the Town Council. Ms. Flink will present the CDC updated sail order and COVID. Action Item draft presented by Ms. Powers.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT—5:30 pm.

Lynn Kenison Higgins, Deputy Clerk