

Minutes
Bar Harbor Town Council
February 1, 2022 by videoconference

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:07 P.M.— In attendance were Councilors Matthew Hochman, Valerie Peacock, Gary Friedmann, Erin Cough, Jill Goldthwait; and Town Manager Kevin Sutherland.

A. Excused Absence(s)—Ms. Cough, with second by Ms. Goldthwait, moved to excuse Councilors Dobbs and Minutolo as provided by Town Charter section C-12B(1)(d). Roll Call Vote:

Hochman Y

Peacock Y

Friedmann Y

Goldthwait Y

Cough Y

Motion passed 5-0.

II. READING OF THE MEETING GROUND RULES

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - *The Town Council allows at this time up to fifteen minutes of public comment on any subject not on the agenda and not in litigation with a maximum of three minutes per person. Please join the webinar and use the Raise Hand function.*—None.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 18, 2022 Regular Meeting—Ms. Cough, with second by Ms. Goldthwait, moved to approve the January 18, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Roll Call Vote:

Hochman Y

Peacock Y

Friedmann Y

Goldthwait Y

Cough Y

Motion passed 5-0.

V. ADOPTION OF AGENDA—Ms. Cough, with second by Ms. Goldthwait, moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Roll Call Vote:

Hochman Y

Peacock Y

Friedmann Y

Goldthwait Y

Cough Y

Motion passed 5-0.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA—*A single vote has been scheduled to approve the following routine items of business without discussion, unless individual agenda item action is requested by a Councilor. Mr. Friedmann requested moving Item A, Certification of Property Owners and Abutters Mailing Lists, to Regular Business.*

A. Quit Claim Deed—*Possible motion to authorize the Town Manager to sign.*

B. Waste Reduction—*Possible motion to move planned March workshop to May.*

Ms. Cough, with second by Mr. Friedmann, moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Roll Call Vote:

- Hochman Y
- Peacock Y
- Friedmann Y
- Goldthwait Y
- Cough Y
- Motion passed 5-0.

VII. REGULAR BUSINESS:

A. Certification of Property Owners and Abutters Mailing Lists – *Possible motion to sign the certification of the mailing list used for notice of the Town Council’s Public Hearings February 15, 2022 for the Oceanarium and JAX LUO Amendments for the June 14, 2022 annual town meeting warrant*—Town Clerk Liz Graves explained the updates from the packet materials. Ms. Cough, with second by Mr. Friedmann, moved to sign the certification of the mailing list used for notice of the Town Council’s Public Hearings February 15, 2022 for the Oceanarium and JAX LUO Amendments for the June 14, 2022 annual town meeting warrant.

Roll Call Vote:

- Hochman Y
- Peacock Y
- Friedmann Y
- Goldthwait Y
- Cough Y
- Motion passed 5-0.

B. Fire Department—*Request to reinstate Covid leave time.*—Matt Bartlett, Fire Chief summarized the request and answered Council questions. Ms. Cough, with second by Mr. Friedmann, moved to approve the amendments to the Potential Exposure and Emergency First Responder sections of the Personnel Rules as presented. Roll Call Vote:

- Hochman Y
- Peacock Y
- Friedmann Y
- Goldthwait Y
- Cough Y
- Motion passed 5-0.

C. Property Tax Assistance Program—*Request of Councilor Goldthwait.*—Council discussed parameters of the potential program. No action was taken.

D. Resolutions

1. **Ruth Eveland**—Ms. Goldthwait, with second by Mr. Friedmann, moved to approve the resolution recognizing Ruth Eveland as read and presented. Roll Call Vote:

Hochman Y
Peacock Y
Friedmann Y
Goldthwait Y
Cough Y
Motion passed 5-0.

Resolution of the Bar Harbor Town Council

WHEREAS Ruth Eveland has been Director of the Jesup Memorial Library since December 2009; and

WHEREAS Ruth is the quintessential librarian archetype, minus the shushing; and

WHEREAS Ruth has promoted a diverse and contemporary library including access for all, online services, and rich programming; and

WHEREAS Ruth presided over the development of a proposed Jesup expansion to benefit our community for “the next 100 years” while preserving the treasured historic aspects of the existing building; and

WHEREAS Ruth has received the 2016 Maine Outstanding Librarian Award and the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce Cadillac Award; and

WHEREAS Ruth served nine years on the Bar Harbor Town Council, six of them as chair, and in other community service roles;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Bar Harbor Town Council do hereby express their appreciation for Ruth’s leadership of Bar Harbor’s beloved Jesup; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Council wishes Ruth well in her retirement and looks forward to her continuing civic engagement.

1. **Jim Pinkham**—Mr. Friedmann, with second by Ms. Goldthwait, moved to approve the resolution recognizing Jim Pinkham as read and presented. Roll Call Vote:

Hochman Y
Peacock Y
Friedmann Y
Goldthwait Y
Cough Y
Motion passed 5-0.

Resolution of the Bar Harbor Town Council

WHEREAS James “Jimmy” Pinkham has served in the Bar Harbor Police Department for over 43 years; and

WHEREAS Jimmy is known as a kind and helpful ambassador for the town of Bar Harbor to cruise ship passengers and other visitors to the town; and

WHEREAS Jimmy is the personification of a dedicated employee, having not taken a sick day in over 30 years and willingly picking up multiple hours of overtime nearly every week; and

WHEREAS Jimmy is a respected lifelong member of the island community with personal knowledge of nearly every citizen of the town, often requested by name or by his local nickname “Boomer;” and

WHEREAS Jimmy has been a mentor to dozens of officers and dispatchers, assisting in their career growth and professional knowledge; and

WHEREAS Jimmy is known for his calm demeanor, helping to assess a situation and come up with a resolution that is fair and helpful to all parties involved whenever possible; and

WHEREAS Jimmy has gone above and beyond to assist, comfort, and counsel those in need, on both a personal and professional level,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Bar Harbor Town Council do hereby express their appreciation for Jimmy’s service; and be it further

RESOLVED that the members of the Bar Harbor Town Council extend their best wishes to Jimmy upon his retirement from the Bar Harbor Police Department.

E. Treasurer’s Warrants – Request of Treasurer to authorize paid bills.—Ms. Cough, with second by Mr. Friedmann, moved to sign the treasurer’s warrants for paid bills. Roll Call Vote:

<u>Hochman</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Peacock</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Friedmann</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Goldthwait</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Cough</u>	<u>Y</u>
<u>Motion passed 5-0.</u>	

VIII. TOWN MANAGER’S COMMENTS

Mr. Sutherland said he met with Public Works Director Bethany Leavitt after the weekend’s snowstorm. She shared that despite real challenges at the Highway Division, they’ve been able to accomplish an incredible amount of work. We’re down two crew members in Highway, which means that even the Superintendent had to be out on the road. They worked for about 29 hours straight, from Saturday morning until Sunday afternoon, and then came back on Sunday night to begin moving more of the snow out of the downtown and areas where there are pinch points. Bar Harbor is one of the few communities in Maine that has a DEP permit to unload the snow in the ocean—it has a lot to do with how meticulously clean we keep our streets. It’s a very short window, so a lot of the focus after a storm event is picking up the snow and getting it out of here as quickly as possible. Other areas that could benefit from an additional pass tend to have to wait because of that need. He thanked Suzanne, Ben, Patrick, Stephen, Jason, Jeff, Jordan, Darren, Travis, and Bill for getting us through that intense storm.

Today we had a water main break on Main Street between Park Street just past the YMCA and Cromwell Brook. The road was torn up in order to get down to the pipe. They were able to isolate it to some extent, but it did take basically all day to turn off the water, pump out the water, replace the pipe and fill the road back in. Kudos to the crews that were involved in that effort and the contractors that came in to assist us.

Also today, snow was falling from the eaves in front of the doors at the Municipal Building, so the Fire Department was able to come and knock that off with our ladder truck. He reminded everyone to look out for falling snow and ice.

Budget process update: we started last Tuesday with an introduction to the budget. General Government departments, which include Planning and Code, Finance, Manager and Clerk, gave presentations to the Council and Warrant Committee on Thursday. He has been receiving questions and preparing responses to those. On Thursday Feb. 3, Public Works will be presenting. Tuesday, Feb. 8 will be the public safety departments as well as the school. If Councilors have motions or want to further discuss a particular

topic, they should submit a motion as a jumping off point. All materials are being posted to barharbormaine.gov/Budget.

The Parking Solutions Task Force met last week and we'll have some more for the Council to chew on at the February 15 meeting. The task force also had some additional recommendations for changes that will be shared as part of the Parking Fund presentation Feb. 8.

Versant Power has sent a letter stating that they'll be going through the community this year to replace meters with smart meters. There's no cost to the ratepayer for this. More information is available at versantpower.com/newmeters

IX. COUNCIL COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Mr. Friedmann gave an update on the search for contractors for the solar development at the Higgins Pit site in Salsbury Cove. He and Beth Woolfolk met with Finance Director Sarah Gilbert to discuss what needs to happen to get the bond on the June Town Meeting warrant. Beth, our contractor for this project who works for A Climate To Thrive, put out the Request For Proposals. Five qualified letters of interest were received; three are from Maine. All five companies will be sending representatives to walk through the site tomorrow with Beth. Proposals are due Feb. 18, evaluations will take place a week later. Recommendations to Council will be received by March 1.

Ms. Goldthwait asked where we are with cruise ships, particularly for 2022, and requested that that be on the agenda for the February 15 meeting. We attempted to enlist the cooperation of the lines with ships over 3,000 passengers. The later we do this the harder it is for them to accommodate any changes; she said she's getting anxious about what's going to happen this season, particularly in the fall when we get most of the visits.

She agreed the Highway Division deserves all the kind words and said we may need a Tom Brady message to the citizens, "Do your job and stay off the roads when the weather's terrible."

Jill's Weekly Winner is the lobster management system. It's a terribly difficult assignment, it's very contentious within the lobster community, and there's lots of contradictory information. She feels for them and admires the fishermen that have put in enormous amounts of time.

Ms. Peacock said it was fun to look for the names of the plow trucks with her kid, who's learning to read, during the storm. She said she has been working on the waste reduction workshop, now set for May. She's excited to get the conversation started and share information and resources.

Mr. Sutherland added that he hopes to hold that March 8 date for a Council planning retreat.

Ms. Cough thanked the Highway crew and shared her family's excitement seeing the plow trucks.

Mr. Hochman thanked Public Works for their work on the water main break today and the great job during the storm. He described seeing the choreographed ballet of getting snow out into the middle of the road and getting it picked up. He has recently heard from two groups of long-time residents, younger folks who have been informed they are losing their rentals and are contemplating leaving the area. He would like to find ways to help people stay here and to incentivize long-term, year-round housing.

X. ADJOURNMENT—Ms. Goldthwait, with second by Mr. Friedmann, moved to adjourn at 8:03 p.m. Roll Call Vote:

Hochman Y

Peacock Y

Friedmann Y

Goldthwait Y

Cough Y

Motion passed 5-0.

Elizabeth Graves, Town Clerk