

**Bar Harbor Conservation Commission**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, May 10, 2021**  
**Meeting by Invitation to Zoom Webinar- Starting at 5:30 pm**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 pm by Chair Handwerk. Members present: Mike Handwerk, Chair; Kaitlyn Mullen, Vice Chair; Kim Zdenek, Vice Chair; and Jacquie Colburn, Secretary.

**II. EXCUSED ABSENCES**

There were no excused absences.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT (accessible through Zoom webinar)**

No members of the public were present.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The members reviewed the draft minutes of the April 26th meeting; there were no revisions or additions. *A motion was made to accept the April 26, 2021, minutes as presented at the meeting. Motion was unanimously approved (4-0).*

**V. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Chair Handwerk asked for any revisions or additions to the agenda; there were none. *A motion was made to adopt the agenda as presented at the meeting. Motion was unanimously approved (4-0).*

**VI. ONGOING BUSINESS**

- Open Space Plan presentation to Town Council – discuss presentation and outcome from the Town Council’s May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting  
Chair Handwerk provided a summary of the presentation/discussion with the Council. During that discussion, he pointed out the Plan is a very thorough inventory of the town’s open space resources, and that it complements the Comprehensive Plan. He also stated that while the Plan contains numerous goals and strategies, they can be revised and/or consolidated in the future when the Plan is implemented. The Council asked several questions and offered comments, including their concern that the Plan is not just shelved but is used as a guidance document by the Town. The Commission was hoping that the Council would approve the Plan, however, the Council decided to revisit the Plan at a future meeting. Town Manager Cornell Knight also recommended a public hearing as part of that process.  
  
In the interim, the Commission agreed to continue its efforts to develop a few select educational/informational documents and presentations and to track the progress of the related goals and strategies.
- Open Space Plan and COA’s Spring 2021 Student Projects – vernal pool updates, and next steps  
Chair Handwerk indicated that he had not received a response from Professor Ressel regarding the student projects but will reach out to him again to determine if an update could be made to the Commission prior to the close of the COA spring semester.
- Open Space Plan and invasive species - presentation on Conservation Commission’s section of Town’s website and next steps

Vice Chair Zdenek stated that she posted the presentation to the BH Garden Club's website. To gauge interest, Chair Handwerk will ask Steve Fuller, Assistant Town Planner, if it is possible to track the number of views of the presentation on the Town's website.

- Open Space Plan – continue discussion and review of pesticide and herbicide use and local ordinances, including possible pollinator impacts

Prior to the meeting, Chair Handwerk sent a document to the members which included the goals and strategies pertaining to the application and use of pesticides/herbicides from the Comprehensive Plan. Vice Chair Zdenek suggested that the Commission develop an educational/informational piece derived from this document and the OSP. Chair Handwerk stated that the Town has been using more organic products and that the Public Works department is complying with Strategy 8K2 of the Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Colburn concurred with Vice Chair Zdenek and that an educational/informational piece for property owners would be a good next step. Chair Handwerk emphasized that it would be useful to list safe alternative products that the public could use. Chair Handwerk referenced two presentations, one from UMaine Cooperative Extension and the other from the Maine Board of Pesticides Control, that are highly informative and could be used by the Commission as it moves forward with this topic.

## **VII. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

For the next meeting, members suggested discussing the following items:

- OSP related items as outlined above, plus tracking the progress of OSP goals/strategies
- Suggested budgetary items

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Unless an update of the COA student projects is scheduled, the next regular meeting of the Commission is Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Chair Handwerk will notify members if an additional meeting is needed for the student presentations.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jacquie Colburn, Secretary*