

Bar Harbor Conservation Commission
WORKSHOP MINUTES
Monday, January 25, 2021
Meeting by Invitation to Zoom Webinar- Starting at 5:30 pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm by Chair Handwerk. Members present: Mike Handwerk, Chair; Kaitlyn Mullen, Vice Chair; Kim Zdenek, Vice Chair; and Jacque Colburn, Secretary.

II. EXCUSED ABSENCES

There were no excused absences.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT (accessible through Zoom webinar)

Mr. Will Matteson participated in the meeting to discuss the Open Space Plan - see Item VI. Other than Mr. Matteson, no other members of the public were present.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The members reviewed the draft minutes of the January 11, 2021 meeting, a correction was made to Michele Gagnon's name and the word "in" was added to Item VI. *A motion was made to accept the January 11th minutes as revised. Motion was unanimously approved (4-0).*

V. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Chair Handwerk asked for any revisions or additions to the agenda; a discussion regarding the Project Canopy grant was added to the agenda. *A motion was made to adopt the agenda with this addition. Motion was unanimously approved (4-0).*

VI. ONGOING BUSINESS

Open Space Plan: Review Plan Draft and FAQs and Discuss Next Steps and Future Dates

Commissioners held a Zoom webinar meeting with Will Matteson. Working with Mr. Matteson, the Commission discussed and reviewed the entire Plan draft. Mr. Matteson will make the final edits as suggested by Michele Gagnon, Town Planner, and as compiled by Chair Handwerk. During the meeting, a few other content and formatting edits were also discussed and with these changes, the Commission concurred that the document is complete and ready for submission to the Town. *Chair Handwerk motioned to approve the 2020 Bar Harbor Open Space Plan, as revised at the Conservation Commission's January 25, 2021 meeting, including Plan's text, tables, figures, and appendices. With a second by Vice-Chair Zdenek, the motion was approved unanimously (4 Yes, 0 No).* Mr. Matteson will submit the document to the Town along with an invoice for his services. Mr. Matteson thanked the Commission (and the Town) for the opportunity to work on the Plan. Likewise, Commission members commended Mr. Matteson for his time and effort to get the Plan completed.

Prior to the meeting, Chair Handwerk distributed a draft FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) document that he developed for the Open Space Plan. Members discussed the FAQs and Ms. Colburn offered to provide some additional edits prior to the February 8th meeting. The members agreed that the approved FAQs should be posted to the Commission's webpage.

Chair Handwerk will contact Michele Gagnon and ask her about a presentation of the Plan to the Town Council. The members also discussed the relationship between and applicability of the Open Space Plan to the Town's Comprehensive Plan and will seek feedback from the Planning Department. Ms. Colburn suggested that the Open Space Plan (status and implementation) be a standing item on future Commission agendas.

Project Canopy – Grant Writing

This grant writing workshop was brought to the attention of the Commission in the newsletter of the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions. After reviewing the information provided, Mr. Matteson agreed to attend the free online workshop and report back to the Commission. The members had hoped that Project Canopy might be a viable funding source for some of the Open Space Plan goals and strategies, however, given the short time before applications are due, the Commission agreed to forgo this year's submission process.

VII. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

For the next meeting on February 8th, members suggested discussing the following items:

- Bee Pollinator Project
- Resolution by Lynne Williams
- Open Space Plan – Status and FAQs
- Budget

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jacquie Colburn, Secretary*