

**Bar Harbor Conservation Commission**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, February 08, 2021**  
**Meeting by Invitation to Zoom Webinar–Starting at 5:30 pm**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 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)**

Mr. Will Matteson participated in the meeting to discuss Project Canopy, a USDA grant program made available through the Maine Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. Project Canopy provides funding to municipalities for community forest projects that focus on either planning and education or planting and maintenance. Mr. Matteson attended the February 3, 2021 virtual workshop offered by the State regarding the application, funding, and grant administration process. He provided the members with feedback and highlights of the workshop and sent a summary to the Commission.

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 25, 2021 meeting, one correction was made to the spelling of Lynne William's name. *A motion was made to accept the January 25th minutes as revised. Motion was unanimously approved (4-0).*

Due to Covid-19, the Commission had not approved the March 9, 2020 meeting minutes, to correct for this oversight, the draft minutes of that meeting were presented for review and approval. A few edits were made to the section pertaining to VI. Updates-Recycling; these included correcting the spelling of Fiberright, capitalizing Town, and deleting "should be" and inserting "is" in the last sentence of the first paragraph in this section. *A motion was made to accept the March 9, 2020 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; there were none. *A motion was made to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion was unanimously approved (4-0).*

**VI. ONGOING BUSINESS**

- Open Space Plan: Review and approve the FAQs, Plan Presentations, Finances and Timelines, and Commission Actions regarding Goals/Strategies Projects

The members discussed and agreed upon the revisions to the OSP Frequently Asked Questions document. *A motion was made to approve the FAQ document as revised at the meeting. Motion was unanimously approved (4-0).* The document will be added to the Commission's webpage.

To reduce expenses associated with the printing of the Plan, the Town has offered to print copies. Since the Town budget is before the Warrant Committee, the Commission will not submit any project funding requests at this time. Chair Handwerk stated that he would like to work with the Planning Department so the Commission can present future requests, especially those pertaining to the OSP, in a timely manner. Ms. Colburn suggested that the Commission's agenda be updated to include a standing

“Budget or Possible Funding” item. For future planning, the Commission should plan on reviewing and approving any funding/budget requests at the November meeting.

Chair Handwerk will reach out to Michele Gagnon, Town Planner regarding future presentations of the Open Space Plan to Town Council or others. Chair Handwerk pointed out that given the number of potential projects that the Commission could undertake, that partners must be secured prior to moving forward. There is too much work for the Commission to accomplish without the assistance of other individuals and groups.

- Earth Day 2021

Chair Handwerk talked about the email that was received from Ellie White at COA regarding a possible virtual Earth Day 2021. As a possible activity for inclusion at the virtual workshop, Commissioners discussed a project to encourage property owners to remove invasive species. Ms. Colburn offered to contact Ms. White to discuss this further.

The members also discussed reaching out to Stephen Ressel at COA and former Commission Chair Jesse Wheeler to ask them to join the Commission at its next meeting to discuss possible projects that might align with an OSP goal/strategies. Chair Handwerk will send emails to Mr. Ressel and Mr. Wheeler to request their participation and input. Vice Chair Zdenek also suggested contacting Susan Letcher at COA for projects where her students could help the Commission.

Following up with ideas from past Earth Day’s celebrations, the members discussed the cost and logistics to place a bench at the Stone Barn Farm, a Maine Coast Heritage Trust property in Bar Harbor. Vice Chair Zdenek located an old quote regarding the cost of a bench (\$800-\$1200) and suggested talking with Bethany Leavitt, Public Works Director to see if the Town would be placing any orders for benches in the near future and at a lesser cost.

- Pollinator Project

The members asked Ms. Colburn to resend the email from Ron Greenberg regarding this project so it can be discussed at the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- Maine Association of Conservation Commissions

Chair Handwerk will reach out to Michele Gagnon, Town Planner, to determine if the Town is or is not a member of the Association. If not, the Commission would like to pursue membership. This will be discussed at the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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

For the next two meetings, members suggested discussing the following items:

- Earth Day – 2/22 meeting
- COA Projects – 2/22 meeting
- OSP Status - 2/22 meeting
- Pollinator Project – 3/8 meeting
- Maine Association of Conservation Commissions – 3/8
- OSP Status – 3/8 meeting
- Budget Items and Discussion – 3/8

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jacquie Colburn, Secretary*