

Bar Harbor Conservation Commission
Workshop Notes
Monday, February 13, 2023
Bar Harbor Town Hall - Third Floor Conference Room
5:30 – 7:30pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

The workshop was called to order at 5:34 pm by Acting Chair Jacquie Colburn.

Members present: Acting Chair and Secretary Jacquie Colburn, Christian Barter, member and Ted Koffman, member.

Note: Since the Commission consists of 3 members, a quorum does not exist.

II. EXCUSED ABSENCES

There were no excused absences.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present.

IV. REVIEW OF WORKSHOP NOTES

The January workshop notes were not prepared so no notes were reviewed by the members.

V. REVIEW OF THE AGENDA

The members reviewed the February 13, 2023, Workshop Agenda; two items were added under New Business. First, to discuss an email received from Boot Barn, and second, to discuss future workshop dates.

VI. ONGOING BUSINESS

- Open Space Plan

Members will discuss implementing some of the strategies from the OSP as part of the commission's workplan.

- Comprehensive Plan

The CPC had two meetings since the January commission workshop. Ms. Colburn reported that during the January meeting of the CPC, the Housing Analysis Report prepared by RKG was presented to the Committee and discussed at length. RKG indicated during the presentation that their objective was to put into writing a compilation of what we were/are seeing regarding demographic and housing changes/trends - not meant to come up with the solution(s). The committee also reviewed and discussed member feedback pertaining to the 2007 Plan Vision Statement – what is still relevant and what is missing as we move forward.

At the February meeting of the CPC the Housing Report was briefly revisited. The housing issue (crisis) is a statewide problem, not unique to Bar Harbor. The committee also reviewed and discussed the draft Outreach Report prepared by the town's consultant, Resilience Planning & Design. Michele Gagnon, Town Planner reported that a housing summit will be held in late March at the MDI Bio Lab, attendees are those who are working directly on the issue. Members also talked about the upcoming March meeting. The committee will break into small groups and using a variety of GIS maps will try to determine potential future areas that could be developed and at a future public forum provide the public with the opportunity to respond with their thoughts/ideas.

- Acadia Affordable Workforce Housing Bill (and Town Hill property)

Ms. Colburn reported that she attended the ANP Advisory Committee meeting held on February 6th and that ANP officials reported that the legislation pertaining to the property had been passed by Congress. The next steps regarding the property include a site survey, wetlands delineation and determining parcel access.

- Great Meadow Restoration Project (and Glen Mary Park)

At the ANP Advisory Committee meeting held on February 6th, ANP officials reported that rightsizing culverts, restoring hydrology, improving trails to handle flooding, and enhanced biological monitoring and removing invasives were the next steps in this project. Ms. Colburn said that she spoke with Jessie Wheeler and told him that the Commission would be glad to help with outreach and education pertaining to invasive species.

- Membership

Mr. Koffman stated that he would be meeting with an individual who may be interested in serving on the commission at a future date.

- Budget

Ms. Colburn said that there had been no changes to the commission budget since the January meeting. She did question whether it is time to renew the Maine Association of Conservation Commission membership and will follow-up with Michele Gagnon, Town Planner.

- Commission Workplan

Members agreed that the workplan should match the strategies outlined in the Open Space Plan. The draft spreadsheet that Mr. Barter had prepared was reviewed and discussed. Mr. Barter will make the edits that were proposed, such as the need to address affordable housing be the highest priority while working with ANP and others on the Great Meadow be the second priority.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- Email from Boot Barn

Ms. Colburn said that she had received an email from Boot Barn, a company based in California. They were looking for a candidate to acknowledge who had contributed to the conservation of ANP. Ms. Colburn said that she responded and recommended that they contact Friends of Acadia to find such a candidate. No further emails were received from Boot Barn.

- Future Workshop Dates

Members reviewed the workshop dates for the remainder of the year. It was determined that for both the scheduled June and August workshops, one member will be absent, leaving only two members. At this point, the commission decided to cancel those workshops unless new members are appointed.

VIII. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

In addition to the above, other items may also be included on the next agenda.

IX. ADJOURN

The workshop adjourned at 7:30pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jacquie Colburn, Secretary*