

Bar Harbor Conservation Commission
Workshop Notes
Monday, March 13, 2023
Bar Harbor Town Hall - 3rd Floor Conference Room
5:30 - 7:30pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

The workshop was called to order at 5:30 pm by Acting Chair Jacquie Colburn.

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

Guests present: Chris Petersen, Chair, Marine Resources Committee (MRC) and College of the Atlantic (COA) Professor of Ecology and Biology

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

II. EXCUSED ABSENCES

There were no excused absences.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Petersen talked about the MRC: its jurisdiction is the intertidal zone, and its responsibilities relate primarily to clamming activity, however, water quality also falls within their purview. He indicated that the MRC is interested in learning more about the ongoing work of the Comprehensive Planning Committee because maintaining the “working waterfront” is important to the future of Bar Harbor.

Ms. Colburn informed the group that Cali Martinez had been selected as the new Assistant Planner, the position previously held by Steve Fuller; everyone was very pleased that Ms. Martinez was now in that position. They agreed to invite her to the next workshop at COA, Mr. Petersen volunteered to reach out to Ms. Martinez.

IV. REVIEW OF WORKSHOP NOTES

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

V. REVIEW OF THE AGENDA

The members reviewed the March 13, 2023, Workshop Agenda; no revisions were made.

VI. ONGOING BUSINESS

- 2035 Comprehensive Plan

Ms. Colburn explained that at the most recent meeting of the Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC), the members engaged in a 3 hour work session. At the session, Bethany Leavitt, Director of Public Works provided an overview of the existing sewer and water infrastructure in Bar Harbor. She also provided some insights regarding the cost and feasibility of expanding the existing system. The CPC then broke into groups to identify areas for possible future land use with the following parameters in mind:

- a. Bar Harbor Today
- b. Balancing our Shared Resources
- c. Bar Harbor Tomorrow

While some general areas were identified, it became evident that not much developable land area remained after the constraints were applied and the town will need to be resourceful to address future housing needs.

In other items related to the Plan, Ms. Colburn said that a regional housing forum will be held on March 24, at the MDI Bio Lab for those involved w/housing on the island. Mr. Koffman stated that he would attend the forum.

- Commission Work Plan – Review, discuss, revise and update

Ms. Colburn handed out a hard copy of a draft “5 Year Plan of Proposed Activities” and together the group reviewed and discussed the plan. Seeing opportunities for collaboration, Mr. Petersen recommended that the members hold their next workshop at COA, and he would invite other faculty members and students to discuss possible joint projects. The commission members concurred that such a workshop would be helpful to introduce the activities of the commission, particularly those outlined in the 2020 Open Space Plan, to the COA community.

Following that discussion, Mr. Petersen departed the meeting. The members then moved on to reviewing the spreadsheet that Mr. Barter had developed to track and record the work of the commission more accurately. Mr. Koffman and Ms. Colburn thanked Mr. Barter for updating the spreadsheet and additional edits were briefly discussed.

- Membership

Mr. Koffman said that he had a productive meeting with a prospective member, however that individual indicated that they are already involved with several other organizations in the community. Ms. Colburn said that a former commission member had recommended another individual who might be interested in the commission’s work. Ms. Colburn will follow up.

- Budget

Ms. Colburn said that, to the best of her knowledge, there had been no changes to the Commission budget since the last meeting.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- Commission Workshop schedule – Review and confirm

Workshops for the remainder of 2023 include:

April, May, July, September, October, November, and December.

As of now, no workshops will be held in June and August because some members will be out of town; this could change, however, if more members are appointed prior to these workshops.

VIII. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

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

The next workshop of the Commission will be held at COA and hosted by Chris Petersen.

IX. ADJOURN

The workshop adjourned at 7:30pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jacquie Colburn, Secretary*