

**Bar Harbor Conservation Commission**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, April 26, 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 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 March 8th meeting. *A motion was made to accept the March 8, 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. One addition was requested by Ms. Colburn, to discuss the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce 4/22/2021 email. *A motion was made to adopt the agenda with the one addition. Motion was unanimously approved (4-0).*

**VI. ONGOING BUSINESS**

- Open Space Plan and COA's Spring 2021 Student Projects – vernal pool field/course work discussion, updates, and next steps  
Chair Handwerk indicated that Professor Ressel confirmed that he had received the Commission's letter of endorsement for the student project. Next, Chair Handwerk will send an email to the Professor requesting an update of the project, if possible, for the May 10<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting.
- Open Space Plan and COA's 2021 virtual Earth Day event – Conservation Commission in collaboration with Bar Harbor Garden Club, invasive species presentation discussion, updates, and next steps  
Since the Commission had no response from COA regarding the virtual Earth Day event, Vice Chair Zdenek recommended that for educational purposes the Commission's Invasive Species presentation be linked to the Commission's website and shared with other MDI non-profits. Further, Vice Chair Zdenek suggested that any remaining native lupine seeds be given to the Wild Gardens of Acadia for their annual spring plant sale. Commission members agreed that this approach to distribute the presentation will hopefully facilitate greater participation in the Commission's initiative to remove specific non-native species and fulfill some OSP goals and strategies.
- Open Space Plan – discussion of pesticide and herbicide use and relevant OSP goals and local ordinances, including possible pollinator impacts  
Vice Chair Zdenek shared a pesticide/herbicide ordinance and associated FAQs (frequently asked questions) from the Town of Blue Hill. Ms. Colburn asked if Bar Harbor has any provisions/guidance regarding the use and/or application of pesticides to town properties. The Commission discussed how the information from Blue Hill might be developed into an educational tool for Bar Harbor property owners. Vice Chair Zdenek offered to do some research for the next meeting and suggested that if an

educational/informational piece is developed that it be linked to the Commission website and that it references the applicable goals and strategies of the Open Space Plan.

- Open Space Plan presentation to Town Council – Chair Handwerk will present OSP at Town Council’s May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting

Members reviewed and discussed the presentation that Chair Handwerk had written; no further edits were made. Ms. Colburn suggested that Chair Handwerk also conduct a brief review of the content of the Open Space Plan when meeting with the Council. Following the presentation, the Commission hopes that the Council will accept and approve the Plan. *A motion was made to accept the OSP presentation as presented at the meeting. Motion was unanimously approved (4-0).*

## **VII. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM**

- BH Chamber of Commerce “Happy Earth Day” Email

Ms. Colburn made the members aware of the Chamber’s Earth Day email because it referenced the Commission “enforcing the city-wide ordinance, ‘Light and Glare’ to the protect the amazingly dark night skies”. She was concerned because the Commission cannot enforce an ordinance, that is the responsibility of the Town Planning and Enforcement department. The members discussed this and agreed that it was probably a misunderstanding and that the Chamber probably meant to state that the Commission endorsed such an ordinance. Ms. Colburn offered to follow up with the Planning Department and the Chamber to clarify any confusion.

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

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

- OSP Status and COA Research Project
- Pesticide/Herbicide Use
- Pollinator Project

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jacquie Colburn, Secretary*