

Minutes — Bar Harbor Board of Appeals
Monday, August 30, 2021 — 9:00 AM
Council Chambers – Municipal Building – 93 Cottage Street, Bar Harbor

Chairperson Ellen Dohmen, Secretary Robert Webber, Member Anna Durand and Associate Member Michael Siklosi were present (officeholders listed here were those holding those positions as of the Board's most recent previous meeting, which occurred on July 16, 2020).

Member Heather Peterson was unable to attend due to her job and the time of the meeting. As the fifth appointed seat on the board is currently vacant, Mr. Siklosi (in keeping with past practice) served as a voting member of the board for this meeting. Board of Appeals Attorney Daniel Pileggi was present. Assistant Planner Steven Fuller was present for town staff.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Dohmen called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Webber moved to adopt the agenda as presented, which was seconded by Mr. Siklosi. The motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- a. Chairperson
- b. Vice-chairperson
- c. Secretary

Mr. Siklosi nominated a slate of candidates for the above-named offices: Ellen Dohmen as chairperson, Anna Durand as vice-chairperson and Robert Webber as secretary. Chairperson Dohmen seconded the motion, which then carried unanimously (4-0).

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. July 16, 2020

Chairperson Dohmen began by noting it was the first time the Board had met in 15 years without Roger Samuel as a member. She thanked him for his service and said it was always a pleasure to work with him. She noted the Board had two new members, Anna Durand and Heather Peterson.

Chairperson Dohmen said Mr. Samuel had been given a copy of the draft minutes, as he was at the July 16, 2020 meeting, and had flagged two items which she then shared with the Board. On page two, in the first line under b. March 10, 2020, there was an "s" at the end of Mr. Samuel's name which did not belong there. Additionally, in the "Application" section at the top of page three there was a question about subject/verb agreement. To resolve the question, Chairperson Dohmen suggested adding a "to" between "applicant further requests the Board of Appeals" and "remand the matter to the Planning Board." No one offered any other corrections to the minutes.

Mr. Siklosi moved to approve the minutes as corrected, which was seconded by Mr. Webber. The motion then carried without opposition, 3-0 (Ms. Durand did not vote as she did not attend the July 16, 2020 meeting since she was not then a member of the Board).

V. REGULAR BUSINESS

a. Remote Participation Policy

i. Public hearing

ii. Consideration of adoption of Remote Participation Policy

The draft version of this policy was posted both online on the Board of Appeals webpage (<https://www.barharbormaine.gov/216/Appeals-Board>) and on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building at 93 Cottage Street prior to the meeting taking place. Notice of the meeting for the Board to consider this policy was posted in both of those same places. It was also published in the Thursday, August 19, 2021 and Thursday, August 26, 2021 editions of the *Mount Desert Islander* newspaper. There were no members of the public in attendance at the August 30 meeting, and as such, the board proceeded to its consideration of adopting the policy.

Assistant Planner Fuller offered context and a brief background on the policy, which was prepared by the Maine Municipal Association and made available to municipalities statewide. He noted the Bar Harbor Town Council had already adopted the policy for itself, and that other town boards would soon consider doing the same. Attorney Pileggi spoke to the legality of the policy and said that “this should give the board the flexibility that you need to work during the pandemic.” He said the policy “adheres to the statutory requirement” outlined in Maine law.

Chairperson Dohmen called for a vote to adopt the policy, which carried unanimously (4-0) in favor. It was unclear who moved and seconded the adoption, though it was clear from the context of the meeting and the discussion therein that it was the Board’s intent to do so.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:06 AM, Mr. Siklosi moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Webber. There being no opposition to adjournment, Chairperson Dohmen then declared the meeting adjourned.

Signed as approved:



Robert Webber, Secretary
Bar Harbor Board of Appeals

9-14-21

Date