

Report
of the
129th Year
of the

Bar Harbor
Village Improvement Association



October 21st, 2021

**Organized 1881
Incorporated 1891**

**127 West Street
Bar Harbor, Maine**

BHVIA 130th Annual Meeting Thursday, 21 October 2021 at 3:00 PM

Agenda

1. Bring the meeting to order
2. Approve 2020 Annual Meeting minutes (did not meet due to COVID)
3. Election of Officers
 - A. Welcome new Director (Erin Cough)
 - B. Approve slate of Officers (Dick, Andy, Kim and Jon)
 - C. Approve full slate Directors (Tom, Jeff, Stephen, David, Helene and Erin)
4. Treasurer's Report (spread sheet – approve next years budget)
 - A. O'Neil Trust
 - B. Checking Account
 - C. Money Market and CD
 - D. BH Trust Services VIA Portfolio
 - E. The First Fountain Fund
 - F. DeGregoire Green
 - G. Corporate Report (VIA now filing?)
 - H. Donations received – 7500.00 (John Darling), debited – 2000 (BHHS), 1500 (History Trust)
5. Property Reports
 - A. Shore Path
 - 1) Maintenance
 - 2) Shapiro Kirk bench family luncheon/meeting
 - B. Glen Mary
 - 1) Proposed dog park – discussion/approval/next step
 - C. Village Green
 - 1) Proposed bandstand – what role will VIA play
 - D. Woodbury Park
 - E. DeGregoire Green
 - 1) 2021 work completed – new trees planted, maintenance
 - 2) Request by Caleb Cough for VIA to pay our share (the park) of his taxes
 - 3) negotiations w/ Town to take over park (David)
6. Media
 - A. Website, Facebook - visits, improvements, collaborations (Kim)
 - B. History Trust – Transfer and digitation of records to Jesup (Kim)
7. New Business – Possible future projects (West Street improvements & New “Bar Harbor Welcomes You” sign
8. Motion to adjourn

Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association

Annual Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2020 - 10:00AM

La Rochelle, Bar Harbor

President Cough called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM

Present: Dick Cough, Jon Nicholson, Andy Shea, Steven Coston, David Witham, Helene Harton, Kim Swan

Jon Nicholson reviewed the financial report included in the packet.

Andy Shea and Steven Coston will review the current investment strategy and make recommendations on moving money around and get back to board on thoughts.

Jon Nicholson will review bylaws to see if there are any restrictions on endowment and follow up with the Board.

There was discussion on the corporate filing for the VIA and noted that Nat Fenton used to handle it and it was moved to Eaton Peabody. Paul Coston or Jon Nicholson will take care of it going forward to save on costs.

Dick Cough added to the Treasurer's Report that there was \$250,000 spent on DeGregoire Green, \$50,000 on Shorepath and Glen Mary.

Dick Cough read letters from people thanking the VIA for work done on Glen Mary Park and Degregoire Green including Phil Fuller and Steve Demers.

Helene Harton relayed her appreciation for the VIA and Witham Family cooperation in placing Memorial Bench on the Shorepath for her husband, Roy Kasindorf.

Dick Cough reviewed the efforts on placing the Kirk Memorial bench on the Shorepath and noted that Janie Coston, Jeff Hobbs and Scott West all denied permission to place the bench on their part of Shorepath but that Cindy and Lee Launer, new owners of Reef Point, accommodated the placement.

On Glen Mary, there is still work to be done. Dick noted that Tom Savage had done significant clean up and VIA used \$12,000. Dick also noted that the Town has the lease agreement for Glen Mary and Woods and we should try to convince them to maintain the property.

On Shorepath, Dick noted that Scott West had allowed a bit of widening of the path in front of his property and is now leaving Bar Harbor. Dick also mentioned that with the new work in front of Coston's property; the

seawall, storm drain and culverts that it is crucial to keep the Wayman Lane end of the Shorepath accessible to machinery for repairs etc.

It was noted that we need consistent signage in all Parks and burial ground between the churches. NO BIKE decals to be installed on Shorepath entrances.

On De Gregoire Green, Dick noted that two more benches had been added when he realized we didn't have any with backs on them. One is engraved with a message from the VIA and another honoring Lance Mahaney's assistance.

New Signs added for directions.

Acadia National Park has communicated that they do not want signs in the Green painting to Park or Carriage Roads.

Important to push people to the cross walk by Wonderview.

Move sign to ANP to crosswalk too.

Waiting on survey from Greg Johnson to get final leases signed with Joe Cough and Lance Mahaney.

Next year ribbon cutting for DeGregoire Green and also the 20 additional panels for the Museum in the Streets.

Tom Testa and Jeff Dobbs both arrived at meeting.

History IT has asked for \$1500 to, along with other members, continue digitizing the collections.

Kim Swan moved and Andy Shea seconded to give the money to History IT. Passed 9-0.

Village Green

Jeff Dobbs discussed the hope to expand the bandstand. Jeff has talked to Brian Booher but Covid stopped everything. Jeff mentioned that the Town Council is enthusiastic about this and will continue discussions this winter. Dick Cough mentioned that VIA can expect to be asked to donate.

Dick brought up the request by Townsquare Media to be considered as vendor to take over and make a new website for BHVIA. There was discussion regarding Chris Popper and his support of community.

Andy Shea moved and Jon Nicholson seconded to hire Chris Popper and Townsquare to create new site. Passed 9-0.

Kim Swan will work with Townsquare on new design and report back to Board on process and progress.

It was agreed that in addition to the Annual Meeting that the VIA Board would have a spring working meeting in 2021.

West Street - Dick Cough mentioned that there is talk and interest in continuing the Path from DeGregoire Green to La Rochelle and make more pedestrian friendly and make West Street more of an attraction.

Dick mentioned that there should be a more appropriate and significant WELCOME TO BAR HARBOR sign, maybe pink granite on the bank of school property.

Dick mentioned that we should continue working to make the Shorepath more inviting at the Town Pier entrance and that it is good to have David Witham's agreement and assistance on this issue.

Discussion about the VIA tagline "Quietly behind scene..." and agreed it was time to change to "Beautifying Bar Harbor Since 1881". Jeff Dobbs moved, Tom Testa seconded - Vote 9-0.

Dick discussed the importance of the VIA, it's rich history and how the board membership has changed from heavily summer residents to almost all year round residents and how significant the organization has been to the history of our community.

Dick thanked everyone for their time and adjourned the meeting at 11:04 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Swan
Secretary