



REPORT

of the

120 TH Year

of the

**BAR HARBOR
VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT
ASSOCIATION**

August 16, 2012

*33 Ledgelawn Avenue
Bar Harbor*

2012

**Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association
120th Annual Meeting
August 18, 2011**

Welcome

Members and guests were welcomed by Richard Cough who then called the 120th annual meeting of the Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association to order. Thirteen members attended the meeting held at the Bar Harbor Historical Society on Ledgeawn Avenue in Bar Harbor. President Cough thanked all for coming and then called the meeting to order.

Secretary's Report

After a review of the 2011 annual report, the motion was made to accept the Secretary's Report as printed in the 119th Annual Report, as presented; with motion seconded and passed.

Election of Officers and Directors

Motion to elect a new President and the slate of officers and directors for 2011-2012 was nominated by Mr. Brewer, and motion seconded. So voted.

President:	Richard Cough
Vice-President:	Barbara Cole
Treasurer:	Sheldon Goldthwait
Secretary:	Philip Cunningham
Directors:	Les Brewer, Ellen Grover, Jeff Dobbs, Deb Dyer, William Scott, Andrew Shea, and Scott West.

Treasurer's Reports

Treasurer Goldthwait reported that we started out the 2010 year with a total of \$277,545.63, and ended the year with \$300,270.12. One can see on the bottom of the report where the money is held. The VIA endowment market is \$297,325. and the O'Neil Trust is 2,755,253. as of June 30, 2011, Distribution of the O'Neil Trust was \$32,793 and Bar Harbor Bank & Trust was \$5,700. We received an insurance bill of \$1,495. which was for two years, we had just received the bill at last years meeting, and we did not adjust because we hadn't paid the bill as yet. We spent \$12,000 on Glen Mary. Sheldon has the breakdowns of all of the spending.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and budget for 2011-2012, with motion seconded, and passed.

Glen Mary Report

Ellen Grover couldn't be here for this meeting, as usual she has done a great job over the past year. This is the third year that Tom Savage will be here cutting trees, he does a nice job. The Town took up the pipes as it is dry and we no longer use them. You should all take a walk if you can it is a nice walk. The Park also increases the value of the properties around it. The committee talked about selling the land on Thorndike Hill to Wil Thorndike and Doug Dubois – they both said they would buy it back. This property was given to the Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association in 1930 by the Thorndike family. We need to take the deed to a lawyer, there is probably nothing to stop the sale and the land is not usable. It is nice that they

are willing to purchase the land – it was actually land that was in the Thorndike family. Once the deed is straightened out then we will move forward.

A stone bench honoring Miss Mary Shannon was approved last year. We have found an 8 foot long stone which Dick asked if the Town can dig it up so we could use it as a bench, we could put Miss Shannon's name on the bench with the date. The Association set aside funds to do that.

Village Green

Dick does not have anything to report; the Green looks in good shape. Jeff Dobbs asked if we could place a plaque or etch something in the center of the Granite. Les Brewer answered that yes we can do that.

Some historic information; Fennelly was the Post Master after the Civil War. Les suggested that we do some historic research and decide what to do. It was a town and VIA project this last time. We didn't let it go – people do not stop and look, Les agreed, but we should look into this. Someone asked what about the Museum of the Streets? We could have on the corner of Mount Desert Street, a plaque explaining the Village Green and Town Clock.

Jeff Dobbs had another idea to do a board walk in bricks instead of the asphalt. Dick asked how long ago it had been done. Phil said at least ten years; Dick said maybe we could do it in the next five years. A granite plaque with the names of all lost in the wars in glass used to be there. Jeff thought we should talk to the American Legion to put names and honor to the soldiers who fought for freedom. The letters were all hand written in the original granite monument.

Originally, the Association leased the Village Green from the town in 1904, to make plans for a bandstand and Village Green square.

Shore Path

Dick gives his apologies to Don Hobbs for not putting in the drain near his house to the retaining wall, and Don said thanks for keeping me on the list. Since then they have had a wedding there near the wall and had a great time. Maybe we should drill holes in the wall to reduce the water in the lawn. It is wet on the Wayman Lane entrance. McQuinns came in the spring and was able to build back up temporarily; McQuinns will do about 100ft more.

Some large stones could be used as benches. Dick will re-file with the town to make repairs. Hancock Street access tree needs to be trimmed near the sign. John Nelson needs to give permission to trim back that tree.

Jeff Dobbs said FYI the town budget includes a redesign and approve Grant Park and some of the Shore Path. No money for construction yet. If any comes from the VIA it will come in a year or two.

VIA could possibly rebuild the retaining wall in front of Grant Park. Will be included in plans for Grant Park – permit should be included in the overall update.

Balance Rock water from pool goes to Grant Park and runs down the path always wet and muddy. They cannot use the lawn.

Debbie reported that the Bar Harbor Historical Society had placed a plaque at Grant Park for the Grant cottage. Balance Rock, a glacial-age wonder is believed to be from Lucerne.

Good news on Grant Park! Budget on repair of retaining wall a little ways down and hope to repair in front of it in a later year.

Jeff Dobbs talked again about Grant Park and money from VIA or others. Dick mentioned that the Cruise Ship Committee may consider contributions to the project.

Museum of the Streets

The post maker in Belfast will put in the posts for the signs and maps for the Museum of the Streets next spring. The signs are vertical and will be on steel posts. The signs could be kept up year round or taken down. The committee will still need to go to property owners explaining what is being done and where the signs will go. Later they will put them down to Sieur de Monts Springs and Jackson Lab.

Dick also said the Route 3 meetings went very well. The Survey crews are out everyday. They have asked them to do work on the off season as it causes a hindrance to those doing business.

Also we should add the Wild Gardens of Acadia which is a small track of land that Mr. Dorr had purchased – and site of the beginning of Acadia.

New Business

Jeff Dobbs asked about Barker Park – there was an issue with the benches as the bushes grow and looks like the park is being used. Glad she did see it before she passed.

Motion to adjourn the meeting, motion seconded. Thank you for coming, see you next year.

Meeting adjourned.

Secretary Pro Tem
Joanne Parkinson

Responsibilities of VIA

Phil Cunningham expressed concerns regarding the time when Sheldon Goldthwait, Treasurer steps down (he has served since 1982), perhaps Andy Shea would be interested in that position. Phil also asked what we would do if we loose our Secretary, Joanne Parkinson.

Project up Dates

President Cough said that Mc Quinn resurfaced Wayman Lane shorepath access. They added three culverts which should help to keep the water off – great job! Everyone has a right of way on Wayman Lane.

Mc Quinn will start work on the Shore Path in front of David Einhorn soon.

President Cough asked if we have sent the \$5,000 to Hull's Cove School for the ramp. Sheldon answered yes, we did.

Some of the stones out of the stone wall being replaced on the shorepath will be set in front of Don Hobbs house and the Museum of the Streets sign will be placed near the bench. David Einhorn asked for a few stones too. Jeff Dobbs was asked if he wanted some of the stones for Granite Park. He did not know that they were available; Chip Reeves is working some things out. Jeff will call Dick after it goes to committee to see if ok.

It would be nice to take one of the stones to Glen Mary – it would make a nice bench. They are 2 ft wide x 7 ft long. If we don't use the stones, Mc Quinn will take and sell them.

Deb Dyer said that the Bar Harbor Historical Society has a plaque for Grant Park.

We have one more year with Tom Savage cutting trees at Glen Mary. Dick suggested that we price Eagle Arborists from Trenton. Ellen Grover said that Savage does a lot of extra work without charging. They are currently paid \$3,000 per year.

We will owe Mc Quinn for work done this spring and possibly next year for another piece of work on the Shore Path - the retaining wall near grant park area. Maybe we can offer some seed money after once they have a plan in place. We could give \$10,000 to seed.

Treasurer Report

Sheldon said we currently have \$321,000 in the bank in CD's and Money Markets, plus money in the trust. We are spending about \$35,000 per year. Would it make sense to put any in an investment portfolio? What do we need to keep in the checking account? We take in about \$57,000 per year. We do not need to wait until the Annual meeting, we can vote at any time. When the surplus cash exceeds a dollar amount we will put the extra in money markets. We keep \$150,000 in the checking account. Bar Harbor Bank & Trust investment trust has a \$1,000 fee on \$400,000. If we move the \$150,000 from checking into the trust we would have \$500,000 in our investment account. Andy does get a copy of the statement.

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Jeff said that the first Monday of the month the Parks/Recreation have their meeting. They are looking to extend the off season at Agamont Park. Nate Young wants to revisit the use of metal detectors in the park. The Athletic field has drainage issues – it would cost millions of dollars to fix.

Our Annual meeting will be the 3rd Thursday of August which is August 16th; it will take place at 10:00 am at the Bar Harbor Historic Society.

Sheldon asked one question – Brandy Allen, Baileyville has asked for a donation for carpet in her Day Care facility.

When did we pass the Hull's Cove School ramp expense of \$5,000? We need to put into a policy; is it within township? How much do we spend per year?

Each year we have \$5,550.00 marked in the budget for beautification usage.

Phil said the IRS non-profit/profit giving may have issues if we are building it up too much. Maybe we should say the first gift is \$1,000 only and then the 2nd could be more. It should depend on the worthiness of the persons request and ask for a report of what they did with the gift. Sometimes this is done based on the personal knowledge of the grantee. This should be discussed at a Board of Directors meeting – not part of the Annual Meeting.

President Cough proposed to add \$5,000 for Beautification available to use to help someone when asked.

There are opportunities of making grants within the limits of \$10,000 in beautification.

Sheldon tried the last couple of years to provide a balanced budget where spending/funds taken in is equal, now \$32,000 income and pay out \$70,000.

Board votes the budget and the board can change it. We don't pay taxes. President Cough thought we had to spend the requirement 85% of income or then pay the tax. Les suggested we plan a meeting 1-2 weeks before the annual meeting to go over and plan/approve the budget.

We do have a reserve fund of \$163,000 (this is part of the \$321,000). We need to have the board take control over the budget. At our next annual meeting we will need to tell the members that we have changed the policy to allow the Board to discuss and spend money from the budget.

Motion to adjourn the meeting, motion seconded.

Meeting adjourned.

Secretary Pro Tem
Joanne Parkinson