



**REPORT**  
of the  
**121<sup>st</sup> Year**  
of the  
**Bar Harbor**  
**Village Improvement Association**

August 15, 2013

Organized 1881  
Incorporated 1891

33 Ledgelawn Avenue  
Bar Harbor

**2013**

**Life Members**

Mrs. Grace Arnold

Mrs. Catherine Barrett

Mr. Ron Bilancia

Mr. Louis Blancato

Mrs. Charlotte Bordeaux

Mr. Leslie Brewer

Mrs. Barbara Cole

Mr. Lorenzo Creamer, Jr.

Mr. Phil Cunningham

Mr. Lawrence Duffy

Miss Debbie Dyer

Miss Barbara Entzminger

Mrs. Dorothy Erikson

Mr. Don Hobbs

Dr. and Mrs. John Hoche

Mrs. Susan Leiter

Mr. David Paine

Mrs. Ann Roberts

Mr. William Scott

Mr. David Witham

**President:** Dick Cough  
**Vice President:** Andy Shea  
**Treasurer:** Jon Nicholson  
**Secretary:** Ellen Grover

**Directors:** Les Brewer, Phil Cunningham,  
Jeff Dobbs, Debbie Dyer,  
William Scott, Tom Testa, Scott West

All visitors to Bar Harbor, as well as residents, are cordially invited to join the Association. No formality is necessary to become a member. The handing in of a name accompanied by \$10 to the Treasurer of the Association, Mr. Jon Nicholson at the First Bank, constitutes membership. Life Membership \$250.

The Association will gladly receive donations which may also be made to the Treasurer, and for which due acknowledgement will be made.

**Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association**  
**Spring Meeting**  
**April 10, 2013**

**In Attendance:** Dick Cough, Andy Shea, Ellen Grover, Les Brewer, Debbie Dyer,  
Phil Cunningham, Jeff Dobbs

**Initial Business:**

President Dick Cough opened the meeting and conducted the following business:

The minutes from the Annual Meeting 8/16/12 were amended and approved.

Dick Cough informed the group that Andy Shea, due to a conflict of interest, was unable to perform his responsibilities as Treasurer; Jon Nicholson will be serving as interim Treasurer.

Dick Cough reported that the VIA balances in BHBT are currently \$22,000 (checking) and \$400,000 (Trust); some of the Trust account funds will be moved in order to pay the balance of the \$55,000 due McQuinn for the Shore Path work done this winter. It was reported that the VIA's share of the O'Neil Trust this year has been two payments of \$16,250 and \$3,772. Dick Cough is working with the BHBT to have Mr. Shea's and Mr. Nicholson's signatures added to the BHBT accounts.

Phil Cunningham is assisting Ellen Grover in the transition of secretarial duties. He will put together a mailing list of members in the next few weeks. The two will work together to prepare the annual report and ensure that the notices of the annual meeting are properly distributed in July. Rob Levin, a reporter from the MDIslander, will be invited to cover the event.

**Old Business**

**Shore Path**

Debbie Dyer indicated that there are no Shore Path signs in reserve and wondered if we should order some. After discussion, the group agreed that further signage should be of the fiberglass resin ones similar to the Museum of the Street signs. Dick Cough assured the group that the signs were weather resistant and designed to survive our winters. Four signs will be ordered, one being held in reserve. Dick Cough reported on the work done last fall/winter and reported that there had been no damage or seaweed this winter, due perhaps to the wall having been raised a foot higher on the stretch McQuinn worked on. Drainage slits have been included in the walls, and the crabapple tree was surrounded by seawall. Still to do: a few stones will be placed for seating, the Shore Path sign will be put back up, and the access area will be cleaned of debris and tire tracks.



#### Village Green/VA monument

Debbie Dyer reported she is exploring replacing the plaque with one that depicts all five branches of service and that honors all Bar Harbor veterans of all wars.

#### Village Green Brick Pavers

Jeff Dobbs reported that this project is on both the Parks and Rec's and the VIA's wish lists. Discussion centered on the plausibility of asking if the town crew could lay the bricks should the funds be found for their purchase. Dick Cough will approach Mr. Reeves to see if this might be possible.

#### Signage for Glen Mary Park and How Memorial

The group agreed that signs will be ordered that identify the parcels as being owned and maintained by the VIA and will be similar to those now used by the Museum of the Streets. The Glen Mary sign will be put at the north corner of the park (Waldron and Spring Streets); the wording will honor Mary Shannon's donation in 1894. Phil Cunningham will try to find a copy of that original deed, and he and Ellen Grover will propose wording which will attempt to capture some of the charm of her endowment. Dick Cough will develop the How Memorial inscription.

(It was recommended that the dog waste sign at the corner of Glen Mary and Waldron be relocated so as to not interfere with the enjoyment of the new landscaping there and vista of pines.)

#### Glen Mary Park benches

Mary Shannon's original bequest included that 'settees' be placed in the park for the enjoyment of all. To that end, the town will soon dig up the existing granite step that originally invited guests into the woods and set it on rocks to make a natural bench. Further benches, and donor benches, are a possibility but the group decided to wait to see how this one fares in the woods.



#### Annual Meeting Agenda Items

Jeff Dobbs moved that the VIA draft a resolution honoring and thanking Les Brewer, Bobbie Cole, Sheldon Goldthwait and Phil Cunningham for their long tenure of dedicated and outstanding service as officers of the VIA. Moved and seconded.

(Phil Cunningham volunteered to research the years served by these longstanding members and help draft a commendation.)

Bobbie Cole is resigning her position as Vice President of the VIA. The slate of officers, with Dick Cough as President, Ellen Grover as Secretary, Jon Nicholson as Treasure and Andy Shea assuming the Vice Presidency, was approved for presentation at the Annual Meeting.

It was agreed that the Treasure's Report (annual budget, income and expenses) shall be turned into the Secretary at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

## New Business

### O'Neil Trust

Dick Cough informed the group of People's United Bank's disinclination to honor the request to transfer the O'Neil Trust funds to BHBT per the wishes of the VIA, Jesup Library, Historical Society, and Mount Desert Hospital. In order to expedite the transfer, the following three motions were each unanimously approved (having been moved by Les Brewer and seconded by Jeff Dobbs):

1. To approve the hiring of the law firm of Jeffrey W. Jones in an attempt to force a change of trustee for the Gladys O'Neil Trust
2. To appoint Dick Cough to continue to act as representative on behalf of the four benefactors in all dealings with Jeffrey W. Jones
3. To authorize an amount, not greater than \$2500, to be spent to resolve this matter

### Grant Park

Jeff Dobbs shared the first draft of the proposed plans for the facelift of Grant Park, again hoping that the VIA might support the project. Dick Cough shared his concern that maintenance access to the Shore Path be maintained. Les Brewer expressed concern that the plan might not reflect the reality of the high tide line and recommended the committee research historical tidal damage to the area before proceeding. Mr. Dobbs hopes for VIA input and will notify members when Grant Park is on the Parks and Rec agenda.

### Policy for Gifting

Dick Cough, responding to a request at the annual meeting and in keeping with the original intent of the VIA, has worked up a draft policy to establish parameters for the VIA's gifting of funds. The draft will be shared by email and the policy will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

### Trust Asset Allocation

Dick Cough is working with BHBT in Ellsworth to ensure thoughtful allocation of funds.

### Village Green Clock

Phil Cunningham will contact Alexander Phillips to get the clock running again.

### Membership

There was general consensus that the VIA needs to build both membership and its public image. The historical implications of the organization are newsworthy. Jeff Dobbs mused that perhaps a video could be made. Ellen Grover will seek to arrange media coverage in early summer, hopefully in collaboration with Les Brewer and other longstanding members, to both broaden public understanding of the VIA and solicit new members. The MDIslander will be invited to cover the annual meeting.

### Annual Meeting

The date of the annual meeting will be August 15, 2013, 10 am.

Ellen Grover  
Secretary  
4/12/13

**Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association**  
**121<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting**  
**August 16, 2012**

**Welcome**

Members and guests were welcomed by Richard Cough who then called the 121<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of the Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association to order. Thirteen members attended the meeting held at the Bar Harbor Historical Society on Ledge lawn Avenue in Bar Harbor. President Cough thanked all for coming and then called the meeting to order.

Joanne Parkinson had been asked to take minutes at a Special Meeting the previous April; the minutes from last August's annual meeting had not been approved at that time so Dick Cough motioned to approve the minutes from last year's annual meeting. Motion was seconded and carried.

**Election of Officers and Directors**

Phil Cunningham decided to step down after more than 30 years as the Secretary.

Sheldon Goldthwait also elected to step down after many years of appreciated service and Andy Shea will take his place as Treasurer.

President:	Richard Cough
Vice-President:	Barbara Cole
Treasurer:	Andrew Shea
Secretary:	Ellen Grover
Directors:	Les Brewer, Jeff Dobbs, Deb Dyer, William Scott, Scott West, Phil Cunningham, Tom Testa.

Dick Cough motioned to elect the Treasurer, Secretary and the slate of officers and directors for 2012-2013. Motion was seconded. So voted.

**Treasurer's Report**

To summarize the report: distributions from the O'Neil Trust were \$31,476. Annual expenses were \$26,000; we spent \$16,000 on the Shore Path, \$1,800 on Glen Mary and \$5,000 on the Halls Cove Neighborhood project.

The Board decided to transfer \$150,000 to the trust account administered by the Bar Harbor Bank & Trust; there is another \$50,000 to invest if the Board so decides.

Scott West asked how we come up with the donation policy and who decides what amount goes where. He wondered what the application process is, how recipients of our funds are determined, and if the funds are to be used solely in Bar Harbor. Dick Cough answered that those that want the donation would need to present the request to the VIA Board in order to get the funding. General consensus seemed to indicate we should come up with a policy for donations.

The O'Neil trust balance is \$2.6 million; our distribution from this was \$31,476 as one of the four beneficiaries. This trust was started with Union Trust then moved to Bangor and is now managed out of a Connecticut bank. All of the beneficiaries have agreed to move this to Maine so it can be managed locally with the management fees benefiting the local economy. This has taken awhile but will take place soon.

Dick Cough will need to add his and Andy Shea's signatures to the Bar Harbor Bank & Trust checking and money market accounts. A motion was made, seconded and carried to remove Sheldon Goldthwait's name from the accounts and replace it with the above two signatories.

#### **Glen Mary Report**

Ellen Grover reported that Tom Savage came in under the contracted budget for the last four out of five years for the maintenance and care of the park. Problems early in the season with beer bottles and cigarettes have been resolved with the help of the local police patrolling the area. We need to look into reforestation and a new contract in the next year. Installation of a bench or two is a priority for next spring. It was suggested that a sign be installed stating that Glen Mary Park is privately owned and maintained by the VIA for the public's pleasure. It was also suggested that the park be included with signage as part of the Museum on the Streets. A motion was made for such signs to be made and installed for How Memorial and Glen Mary Park. Motion was seconded and passed.

Dick Cough added that Ellen has done a great job in keeping an eye on the park – it is clean and looks good, it is great having Ellen there and on board with the VIA.

#### **Village Green**

The Veterans Memorial located on the Green was funded by the Village Improvement Association. The brass plate in the middle is no longer legible. Deb Dyer suggested that the plate be cleaned and five military seals be placed around the plaque and embedded into the granite. Les Brewer suggested that a new, more generic ("Dedicated to all that have served") plaque honoring all veterans be installed on the memorial, and that the old plaque be relocated to the Town Hall. Deb will explore ideas and get estimates from Matt Guernsey and get back to the Board.

Jeff Dobbs (who is also on the Parks and Recreation Committee) will work with Deb to get estimates on replacing the hard top in the Village Green with brick pavers.



### Grant Park

Jeff Dobbs indicated restoring Grant Park is the number one project for the Parks & Recreation Department, but they do not have the money to do anything but pay for the design. They are waiting for final survey of the boundaries, and Jeff is moving ahead with the design team.

The Parks & Recreation Committee will receive 20% of the overage fees from the Cruise Ship Committee to help fund the project, and they hope the VIA will also contribute. The Historical Society will help determine the proper placement of the existing plaque.

Les Brewer voiced concern about the future of the parking area, liking the idea of a buffer zone and maintaining existing parking.

Jeff will address this issue and further develop plans at their September meeting; he indicated it was timely as the park will soon become 100 years old.

### Shore Path

The Shore Path has received a lot of attention. McQuinn worked on rebuilding the Wayman Lane access 'road' last fall; they put in three culverts, cut trees, ditched and resurfaced the roadway. They also improved the Grant Park area by removing the rock surface and replacing it with stone dust to allow for better drainage. This fall another 125 ft section will be redone near Einhorn's; a new retaining wall will be built with holes drilled for future hand rails and a well will be built around the apple tree. Dick said that the \$55,000 bid for this project was reasonable.

Retaining walls have been an ongoing concern; the natural seawall in front of Grant Park seems to be holding up well.

Deb Dyer mentioned that we do not have any extra Shore Path signs. The original signs were designed and placed 15 years ago by Lawrence Hadley. Maybe they should now be made out of resin instead of wood? We need to add to the signs both No Bikes and No Motor Scooters.

### Museum of the Streets

The town will be installing the signs for this historical walking tour after Labor Day; eight of the signs will be located on the Shore Path. The signs give short synopses of the histories of Balance Rock Inn, Reading Room Restaurant, etc. The pedestrian brochure/map will provide historic information as well as locations of the Hospital, Fire Station, Police etc. The Bar Harbor Chamber is sponsoring the brochure.

Les Brewer said he hopes that the Museum of the Streets will help to prevent further neglect of these important landmarks. Because it is historically connected to the village pathways, he hoped the VIA would create a fund for maintenance and signage. Dick stated it won't be necessary as the Town has agreed to provide the same. Ellen Grover suggested that we let the town assume that responsibility with the VIA assuming a back-up role.

## **New Business**

Jeff Dobbs asked if there has been any movement on the parcel on the south side of Spring Street/Glen Mary Woods that the adjacent landowners are considering purchasing. Dick Cough answered that it was on the back burner and that they wanted to wait for a few years.

2016 is the 100<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary for Acadia National Park.

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

Meeting adjourned.

Secretary Pro Tem,  
Joanne Parkinson  
(edited by Ellen Grover)



BAR HARBOR  
VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION  
BY-LAWS  
(adopted 8-8-41; revised 8-15-91)

**PREAMBLE:** WHEREAS, it is evident to all who are interested in the Village of Bar Harbor that some method of united action is needed in order to preserve the natural beauties of the place by ornamentation of the streets and public grounds of the village, by the planting and cultivating of trees, and doing such other acts as shall tend to beautify, adorn and increase the attractions of the village and to promote the public welfare; therefore we have formed ourselves into an Association and agree to be governed by the following by-laws:

- No. 1: "This corporation shall be known as the Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association."
- No. 2: "The following persons shall be members ex-officio of the Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association and free from obligation to pay dues: all municipal officers of the Town of Bar Harbor, including the Town Manager, the Superintendent of Acadia National Park, or his designee. Other members shall be such other persons as may be elected by the Directors. Annual Membership fees for an individual or a Life Membership fee for an individual may be established by vote at any annual meeting."
- No. 3: "The annual meeting of the Association shall be held on the third Thursday in August at some convenient place in the village of Bar Harbor of which due notice shall be given by the Secretary. Other meetings of the Association may be called by the President and shall be called upon written request of five members."
- No. 4: "At the annual meeting, the Association shall elect by ballot the following officers: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and seven members to serve with the above as a Board of Directors of eleven, which shall include at least one member acquainted with the conditions in each of the following fields: 1) Finance; 2) Health and Sanitation; 3) Paths or Trails; 4) Public Grounds and Parks; 5) Town Building, Zoning or Planning ordinances. Special Committees may be appointed at any time by a vote of the Association or by the Board of Directors."

BAR HARBOR VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION  
BY-LAWS continued:

- No. 5: "The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and its Board of Directors, and in his absence the Vice-President shall perform the duties of his office. The Treasurer shall have charge of all money and other property of the Association and at the annual meeting shall report in writing, supported by an account and vouchers for audit. He shall be the sole disbursing officer of the Association and shall pay out moneys only upon written approval either of the President or a member of the Board of Directors, except for usual office expenses. The Secretary shall keep a complete and careful record of all proceedings of the Association and its Board of Directors, shall have charge of the books, records, and seal of the Association, shall give due notice of all meetings, shall send copies of the minutes of each meeting to all members of the Board of Directors, and shall take charge of the preparation of the Association's Annual Report."
- No. 6: "Deeds and contracts shall be executed by the President and Treasurer and shall be stamped with the seal of the Corporation bearing its name and the date 1891. No member shall be personally liable for any contract or debt of the Association."
- No. 7: "Eleven members of the Association, or a majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum; and a quorum being present, a majority thereof shall control."
- §  
No. 8: "These By-Laws as a whole, or any part thereof, may be repealed or amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any official meeting of the Association, but notice of any proposed change shall be given in the call of the meeting."



# Village Improvement.

## An Adjourned Meeting

Of the citizens of Bar Harbor, and all others interested in the welfare of the village, will be held at the

**SCHOOL HOUSE, on Cottage Street,**

**Tuesday Evening, October 11,**  
At 7:30 o'clock.

For the purpose of hearing the report of the committee appointed at the meeting held on the evening of September 27, organizing a

**Village Improvement Association,**

and to take such other action as may be deemed necessary for the better regulation of the village in matters pertaining to Health, Cleanliness, and Public Convenience.

**HASKET DERBY, Chairman.**  
**JOSEPH WOOD, Secretary.**

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J. W. MANCHESTER,  
JOSEPH WOOD,  
B. H. KITTRIDGE,  
D. A. BUNKER,  
C. S. LEFFINGWELL,  
W. A. JORDAN,  
J. A. RODICK,  
MORRIS LONGSTRETH,  
B. BRADLEY,  
FOUNTAIN RODICK,  
FRANK P. MOORE,  
H. C. SPROUL,  
ORLANDO ASH,

J. P. LYNAK,  
E. K. BREWER,  
C. W. DUNBAR,  
J. H. DOUGLASS,  
S. C. VILES,  
GEO. H. TENNET,  
AUSTIN PHELPS,  
D. P. MARCYS,  
JAMES EDDY,  
F. H. JOHNSON,  
C. H. DORN,  
HASKET DERBY.

Mount Desert Herald 1881