

A decorative black floral border with intricate scrollwork and leaf patterns, framing the central text on a light yellow background.

REPORT

of the

122nd Year

of the

**Bar Harbor
Village Improvement Association**

August 21, 2014

Organized 1881
Incorporated 1891

33 Ledgelawn Avenue
Bar Harbor

2014

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 Entzinger
Mrs. Dorothy Erikson
Mr. Don Hobbs
Dr. and Mrs. John Hoche
Mrs. Susan Leiter
Mr. George Merrill
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
122nd Annual Meeting
August 15, 2013**

Welcome

President Dick Cough welcomed about twenty Association members and guests to the 122nd annual meeting of the Bar Harbor Village Improvement Society, held at the Bar Harbor Historical Society on Ledgelawn Avenue in Bar Harbor. In attendance were officers Dick Cough, Andy Shea, Jon Nicholson, and Ellen Grover, and Directors Les Brewer, Debbie Dyer, Scott West, Phil Cunningham and Tom Testa. Mr. Cough thanked all for coming and then called the meeting to order.

The first order of business was to approve the minutes from the two Director's meetings held since the last annual meeting: 10/15/12 and 4/10/13. The motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded and carried with one correction requested by Ms. Dyer.

Election of Officers and Directors

Mr. Cough recommended to elect the slate of Officers and seven Directors to the VIA Board as proposed at the spring meeting.

The motion to elect the following Board was moved, seconded, and carried:

President: Richard Cough

Vice-President: Andy Shea

Treasurer: Jon Nicholson

Secretary: Ellen Grover

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

Resolution to Honor Past Board Members

Mr. Cough honored four Board members for their outstanding service to the VIA and the community by sharing a brief history of each officer's involvement and contributions. Recognized were Les Brewer (33 years), Sheldon Goldthwaite (30 years), Bobbie Cole (23 years), and Phil Cunningham (32 years). He then proposed the following resolution which was duly seconded and enthusiastically passed:

"Now therefore it be resolved that the Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association Board of Directors on behalf of the Association, hereby celebrate and honor Les Brewer, Phil Cunningham, Shel Goldthwaite and Bobbie Cole for their many years of service and many contributions to the success and growth of the VIA."

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Jon Nicholson presented an overview of the endowment distributions, account balances, and major expenses for the previous year. Mr. Cough reported that progress is being made with the ongoing effort to move the O'Neill Trust. The four recipients of the Trust have retained Jeff Jones

to expedite the transition of the Trust from United People's Bank to Bar Harbor Banking and Trust.

Mr. Cough noted that the VIA continues to hold a liability policy with Lynams to cover the Shore Path, Glen Mary, How Memorial, and Bald Rock. He reported that this spring a woman broke her ankle in a fall on the Shore Path in front of the Bar Harbor Inn and that the matter is being resolved by the Inn's insurance carrier and Lynams.

Glen Mary Report

Ellen Grover reported that Tom Savage once again came in under the contracted budget for the maintenance and care of the park, due largely in part to the success of the management plan instituted five years ago. He is submitting a modified contract for the next three years, and modest reforestation is a future consideration.

Two benches have been placed in the woods per Mary Shannon's original wishes. Mr. Cough announced that MacQuinn's is willing to donate a granite bench that will be inscribed (Mary Shannon 1894) and placed in the park to honor her generous donation to the community.

Signs are to be erected in both Glen Mary Park and at How Memorial indicating that the areas are now and forever maintained by the VIA for the enjoyment of residents and visitors to Bar Harbor. Mr. Cough is working with the town to decide if such signage should be similar to the MITS signage or that being adopted by the town.

Village Green

Debbie Dyer shared results of her inquiries into restoring the existing bronze plaque on the Veteran's Memorial and installing 6 military emblems. After discussion, and input from Paul Durost of the American Legion, it was proposed that Jack Gilley of Southwest Harbor be hired to soda blast the monument and set the six new emblems in time (hopefully) for a Veterans' Day ceremony. It was suggested that the VIA assume half of the cost in partnership with the Historical Society. The motion to allocate \$3000 of VIA funds to renovate and add the plaques in this joint venture was moved, seconded and approved.

Alexander Phillips, who has generously donated his time over the years to monitor, care for and repair the Village Green Clock, reported on the recent repairs and painting of the timepiece. Leakage due to high winds and heavy rain has been taken care of quite satisfactorily.

Regarding the ongoing discussion about replacing the hottop paths on the Village Green with brickwork, Mr. Cough related that the town has stated that it is not equipped to take on the installation. The suggestion was made that that the project be put on the agenda of the Parks and Rec committee as an avenue for it to be put into the 2015 budget. It was thought that the VIA would probably be interested in making a contribution to the project should the town decide to move forward on it. The group discussed the advisability of incorporating a central plaque in the

crossing identifying the VIA and its history with the park; Mr. Brewer suggested designing said centerpiece now, as well as being aware of tree root growth and expansion when laying stone walkways.

Grant Park

Mr. Cough has been attending Parks and Rec Committee meetings regarding the refurbishing of the park. He shared the third draft of the proposed plans. It is thought that the VIA will join the town and Parks and Rec Committee in contributing to this project in 2015.

Shore Path

Mr. Cough has been meeting with the manager of the Bar Harbor Inn about upgrading, widening, and adding rails to the 900 foot section of the path in front of the property. Manager Fred Link has agreed to assume half the costs of widening the path to six feet. MacQuinn's estimate came in under \$40,000 for the project. It was moved, seconded, and approved to set aside funds to pay half of the costs of widening and rebuilding this section of the Shore Path.

Discussion concerning eroded and narrow drop offs, and the necessity for installing some kind of fencing, followed. Mr. Brewer suggested that a fence be created and adopted that would be a signature design for any future needs. Any fencing would, of course, need to meet state and local codes; such fencing, and future fencing, could result in lower liability costs for the VIA and abutting landowners.

Scott West raised concerns about the integrity of the seawall in front of his property, and George Merrill indicated areas where drainage problems existed. Mr. Cough will explore the options of repairing those areas as necessary.

Museum of the Streets

The twenty nine panels and three directories installed last fall have been well received. Plans are to install twenty more going out of town on Route 3, along lower Main Street, and by the Cemetery and Kebo Golf Club.

New Business

New Signs

It was moved, seconded and approved that the VIA order four new access signs for the Shore Path and contiguous streets (plus one extra), in addition to those at Glen Mary Park and How Memorial. The design will complement either the current MITS signage or the design now being developed by the town.

Gifting Policy

Mr. Cough shared the written policy (attached) developed by the Board in order to standardize

the gifting procedure.

American Legion

Paul Durost updated the group about the current status and revival of the local American Legion Post. It has been reopened and exhibits set up and open to the public. Mr. Durost announced that they are starting a capital campaign. Al Silverman is the new Commander, and Mr. Duras is President of the Board for the foundation and fundraising.

Social Media

It was proposed that the VIA set up a website and Facebook page to enhance public knowledge and communication. Mr. Cough has a volunteer in mind and will pursue the matter.

Motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded and approved. Mr. Cough thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.

Respectfully submitted

Ellen Grover

Secretary VIA

BAR HARBOR VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
DONATION POLICY

Since 1890, The Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association has worked to carry out the mission of its founding fathers who assembled, based on their perceived need, to provide: *'some method of united action 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 acts as shall tend to beautify, adorn and increase the attractions of the village and to promote the public welfare.'*

To that end, The Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association has decided to establish an annual gifting opportunity for the community; the criteria and application process, as written below, reflect the original intent of the Association. As in the past, the Association does not intend to fund entire projects, but rather to provide seed money to initiate a project, or perhaps to complete one. Funds will be awarded once a year at the discretion of the VIA. Applications may be submitted to any Director by April first and will be announced at the annual meeting in August.

Criteria:

- 1) Project must be within the town of Bar Harbor
- 2) Town projects will have priority over other groups
- 3) Annual gifting donations will not exceed \$10,000

The presentation to the board should include:

- 1) Project plans
- 2) Project description (not to exceed one page)
- 3) Estimated cost
- 4) How project will enhance the community

Award winners and amounts will be based on:

- 1) Value added to the community
- 2) Enhancement or beautification of some aspect of the community
- 3) Number of people who will benefit from the project
- 4) Other sources of funding for the proposed project
- 5) Presentation of proposed project to the board

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.

JOSEPH WOOD, Secretary.

HASKET DERBY, Chairman.

Village Improvement.

The citizens of Bar Harbor, and all others interested in the welfare of the village, are requested to meet at the

SCHOOL HOUSE, on Cottage Street,

Tuesday Evening, September 27,

At 7 o'clock.

For the purpose of 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.

J. W. MANCHESTER,
JOSEPH WOOD,
E. 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. LYMAN,
E. K. BREWER,
C. W. DUNBAR,
J. H. DOUGLASS,
S. C. VILES,
GEO. H. TENNEY,
AUSTIN PERLPA,
D. F. MARCYES,
JAMES ENDY,
F. H. JOHNSON,
C. H. DORA,
HASKET DERBY.

Mount Desert Herald 1881