

Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association
Minutes of the Annual Meeting
November 4, 2025

Present: Dick Cough, John Nicholson, Tom Testa, David Witham, Julie Veilleux, Erin Cough, Helene Harton and Liddy Hubbell
Absent: Jeff Dobbs, Andy Shea

President Dick Cough called the meeting to order

Approval of Minutes – Minutes from the 2024 Annual Meeting were approved. For the record it appears minutes were not taken at the 2025 annual meeting therefore no motions to approve or seconds have been included herein as we have no record of them. So, the following minutes are based on last years agenda, notes I took and my memory of the discussions.

Slate of Directors: Tom Testa, Jeff Dobbs, David Witham, Julie Veilleux, Helene Harton, Liddy Hubbell, Dick Cough, Andy Shea, Jon Nicholson, Erin Cough

Slate of Officers: Dick Cough, Andy Shea, Jon Nicholson, Erin Cough

Treasurers Report: Jon Nicholson laid out our annual budget and financial state, our largest expense being the Shore Path reconstruction. Major funding has been set aside in the budget for 2026 for upcoming reconstruction of Glen Mary. Other budget items remained about the same.

Property Reports:

Shore Path: Project completed with Grand Reopening celebration in Grant Park June 2025. Andy was unable to attend the Annual Meeting but did send in a detailed report on the project that is included on the next page.

Glen Mary: Project still up in the air due to escalating prices, lack of funding commitment from the Town and losing our landscape architect, Mike Rogers, however, David Witham stated the VIA remains committed to this project.

Village Green: The Town Clock is not working and needs to be fixed

DeGregoire Green: Very popular for walkers and great gateway to the village

Website: It was decided the website could use some revamping and possibly be brought back under VIA control (presently we cannot access the site to add or delete anything).

Minutes of 12-21-25 Special Vote

On line vote - official recording of the motion

The Town has requested the VIA approve an easement on our Glen Mary Park property for the installation of a fire hydrant on the corner of Glen Mary and Waldron Road. A motion was made by Dickie Cough, seconded by David Witham and approved by the full Board on this date.

Special Report on the Shore Path

From: Andy Shea, Shore Path Committee Chair

To: The VIA Board of Directors

November 4, 2025

To the VIA Board of Directors and members in attendance at the 2025 Annual Meeting

Sorry to be missing this annual meeting. I am happy to report that the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive on our work on the path. The repairs, excluding Witham Properties, were over 700,000. The VIA covered 325,000 of this from our endowment and was able to fundraise over 383,000 toward these expenses.

The positive side of this storm was that A0 the path has been widened in almost all areas and B) it has been made abundantly clear how important the path is to our community and visitors.

The remaining work to be done falls more in the maintenance category. There are a few low spots where the water is accumulating (mostly around the Willard's property) where we will discuss with MacQuinn's whether a drainage cut should be made in the seawall and where there has been some settling with the path materials.

A special thank you to a few key behind the scenes people that were critical in this effort. David Witham and the Witham Family Hotels for showing us the way so quickly. They gave us the roadmap for getting this done. Rachel Crater for all the efforts behind the scenes. Heather Jones for fundraising efforts. Jon Nicholson for coordinating the donations and payments to the contractors. Kim Swan for all the efforts with the social media side of things. Paul MacQuinn and Chip Reeves from MacQuinn's on delivering a quality product under extreme conditions (ocean tides and cold temps make for tough going). All the donors from across the world to all the locals. Every dollar helped.

Overall, we are happy with the end result and will focus on how we build the Shore Path endowment through our "Friends of the Shore Path" efforts.

Thank you,

Andrew Shea, CFP(R)

Presidents Notes 2026

2025 saw the reopening of the Shore Path much to the glee of the thousands of people who walk it. It turned out to be a huge and expensive project and we certainly want to thank every person and business, far and wide who stepped up without hesitation to support the reconstruction of this iconic path. A grand reopening was held in Grant Park on June 24th with lots of hoopla, media, excited residents and several speakers including but not limited to the Chief of Police, representing the Town of Bar Harbor and myself, as president of the VIA which has maintained the Shore Path since 1881. And of course a big thank you to all the Shore Path residents who were generous in their support of this project and gracious about allowing construction vehicles access across their property. Andy Shea, our Vice President, worked closely with the contractors and residents to coordinate the work. Jon Nicholson, our Treasurer, recorded all the donations, names and addresses on a spreadsheet and paid all the bills. My Heidi did all 147 thank you notes. I would also like to recognize David Witham for several reasons. Witham Family Properties paid for all of the reconstruction of the Shore Path in front of their property, he provided a member of his staff, Rachel Crater, to assist the VIA in promoting and raising funds for the repairs. David provided the space, food and drinks for the major donor recognition party held at the Bar Harbor Inn. He is also a Director on the VIA and is heading up the Glen Mary project. We can't thank him enough for his expertise, time and generosity.

Speaking of Glen Mary, that project has taken on a life of its own and we feel terrible this has taken so long. Costs continue to skyrocket and we keep having to go back to the drawing board and shrink down the plan. The ice rink has been cut, however, Witham Family Hotels paid for the necessary material to build a skating rink at the ball field. We have started quietly fundraising and once a plan is made public and approved by the Town we will kick our capital campaign into high gear. The Town has committed 750,000 to the project and the VIA plans on matching with our funds and your donations. The VIA has already spent over 150,000 on engineering studies, plans, tests, and more. Anyone who wishes to donate to this project now can always take in or mail a check to The First c/o Jon Nicholson.

I would also like to Welcome the Willard's, the newest residents to the Shore Path, to our community. They bought the Hobbs property which was originally Reef Point and the home of famed landscape architect, Beatrix Farrand. Not only are they rebuilding the house and re-landscaping the grounds but they've built a new path next to the Shore Path for the public to walk through and enjoy their gardens. This is the first time a landowner has done anything like this and we're thrilled. They also agreed to the installation of 2 benches on their section of the Shore Path which will help grow our endowment for the Shore Path. Mr. Willard has asked if we'd be willing to add a Museum of the Streets sign on his property telling the Beatrix Farrand story as it pertains to Reef Point. Hopefully this will be completed and installed by next summer. I would also like to have signs made for both the Village Green and Agamont Park fountains in the near future as the story of these local treasures deserves to be told.

Respectfully submitted,
Dickie Cough
President, Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association