

# BOOTHBAY HARBOR SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES Workshop Priority Planning with Matthew Eddy May 22, 2023

In addition to these typed minutes, video recordings of all Selectmen's meetings are available to be viewed at BRCTV and audio recordings are available to be listened to at the Boothbay Harbor Town Office.

ATTENDING: Michael Tomko - Chair  
Kenneth Rayle – Vice Chair  
Alyssa Allen  
Mark Gimbel – late arrival  
Mark Osborn  
  
Julia Latter, Town Manager

Chairman Tomko called the Workshop to order at 5:03 p.m.

Matthew Eddy Executive Director of the Midcoast Council of Government (MCOG) worked with the board on priority planning for the upcoming year.

Eddy went over topics listed in the comprehensive plan such as water quality, economy, community, and the housing study.

The board was asked to come up with some goals other than the ones listed in the comprehensive plan. Some ideas stated were:

- Infrastructure
- Wayfinding
- Street Lights
- Sidewalks
- Returning the police force to a reasonable staffing level –leads to the housing situation.
- Beautification of the parks.
- Parking
- Ordinance Revision
- Economic Development
- Year-Round Employment
- Professional Planning Expertise

The board was asked to give strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats regarding the goals listed above.

Strengths included:

- Julia's financial leadership
- natural resources
- established non-profits
- people like to visit
- seniors aging in place
- individuals with experience with downtown business
- broadband
- unique identity

- the decision to re-invest in the footbridge
- community organizations
- Barrett's Park and the Waterfront Park
- the population of generous people
- town-owned fish pier

Weaknesses included:

- parking
- the size of the town
- congestion
- housing
- medical service challenge
- long-term care
- employment
- the declining number of families
- an aging population
- seasonal rentals

Opportunities included:

- municipal planning
- tourist industry
- location
- broadband
- businesses in town
- working with the town and community
- annual events
- community comes together
- non-profits

Threats included:

- losing identity
- the explosion of short-term rentals
- no short-term rental restrictions
- loss of lodging
- environment
- neighboring communities adding places millennials want to visit
- loss of local places
- state regulations

The board was asked to place 7 stickers each on any of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, or threats they felt most important to our town.

Eddy mentioned the next step will be for him to take the information and put together a draft using the information above and bring it to the board at an upcoming meeting.

MOVE TO ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.