

BOOTHBAY HARBOR PLANNING BOARD MINUTES

January 14, 2026, 6:00 PM

In addition to these typed minutes, video recordings of all Planning Board meetings can be viewed at BRCTV and audio recordings at the Boothbay Harbor Town Office.

ATTENDING:

Tom Minerich – Chair
Merritt Blakeslee – Vice Chair
Ronald Cohen – Secretary
David Cody – Voting Member

Also Present:

Julia Latter – Town Manager
Geoff Smith – Code Enforcement Officer
Dan Stockford – Town Attorney

Executive Session: Planning Board motions to enter executive session at 5:30 PM, Blakeslee/Cohen; 4-0, to consult with legal counsel pursuant to Title 1 M.R.S. §405(6)(E). Nothing was voted on and no decisions were made. Planning Board motions to exit executive session at 5:50 PM, Cohen/Blakeslee; 4-0.

MINUTES: Motion to approve the minutes of December 10, 2025, Blakeslee/Cohen; 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS: N/A

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Discussion on Request for Recusal submitted by Boothbay Harbor Waterfront Preservation, 65 Atlantic Ave, represented by Anthony Muri:

- Minerich abstains and Vice Chair Blakeslee is named Acting Chair for this discussion.
 - Minerich was asked if he would recuse himself. He declined and made a statement for the record.
 - Cody made a motion for Minerich to be recused, 2nd by Blakeslee
 - Cody believes recusal should occur based on perception perceived bias
 - Cohen does not agree recusal is necessary as no evidence was provided to show bias
 - Blakeslee covered four topics of contention with information submitted:
 - ❖ Who would Minerich be biased against if bad behavior does exist
 - ❖ No evidence was produced to suggest bias exists
 - ❖ No financial conflict of interest exists making the “appearance of impropriety” claim not applicable

- ❖ Spousal bias does not equate to bias for Minerich
- Attorney Stockford stated that in his legal opinion this is not a situation that requires Minerich to recuse himself as no evidence was provided to require a recusal
- Vote taken and motion failed to pass 1-2, Cody-Affirmative, Cohen/Blakeslee-Dissent
- Minerich resumes chair and calls for motion to adjourn
 - Attorney Stockford asks to make some statements regarding upcoming meetings and a special meeting for the park as Attorney Muri will not be available for the February 11, 2026 meeting.

ADJOURN: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 PM by Blakeslee/Cody; 4-0.