

Sullivan Waterfront Planning Meeting

4/7/2010

Sullivan Town Office

Minutes

Introductions

- Gary Edwards, Sullivan Selectman, former DERC&D Director
- Heidi Nelson, DERC&D Director Heidi.nelson@usda.gov
- Helen Gordon, Town of Sullivan Harbormaster, Town Clerks
- Bob Deforest, MCHT and local resident
- Steve Perrin, descendent, wildlife observer, Friends of Taunton Bay and Taunton Bay Advisory Group
- Michael Lessard, Resident, Harbor User and boat owner
- Chevy Davis with
- Bob Deaver (?)
- Anne Deaver (?)
- Tim Doughty, fisherman
- Johanna Bissol, retired biology teacher, resident
- Misha Mytar, resident, recreation planner for Bureau of Parks and Lands
- Beverly Servay, Sullivan resident

Others on list but not in attendance

- Gail ?? Historical Society
- Larry Johannesman, MaineDOT
- Barbara Shanahan, resident, Schoodic Byway Committee
- Tom Sidar, FBC Director
- Mark Niborg, property owner
- Harvey Kelly, Chair of the Sullivan Planning Board

Background

- Learned from Frank Dedmon that the property might be worth pursuing
- Put together a LMF grant
 - DMR provided support
- FBC donated \$100,000
- Bob – identified \$16,000 in private contributions
- Town – contributed about \$50,000
- Total cost was about \$400,000
- Last harbor ordinance was passed in 1993
- DOC – George Powell has been involved in acquisition and planning

What do we do next?

- Shore and Harbor Planning Grant – awarded up to \$10,000 for planning process
- Opportunity to look at all of the towns harbors

Issues

- There is no public water access above the bridge
- Shell fish ordinance – lack of local controls have put a lot of pressure on clam flats, particularly with the red tide in many other places. Working on a regional regulation for area towns. Sullivan public hearing April 12 and Special Town Meeting April 26.
- Planning funds are available for HCPC, DERC&D or other consultants
- The wharf property is of historic interest
- The byway passes nearby
- The wharf is on the shorefront
- Sullivan now owns waterfront property on Taunton Bay (1/2 acre)
 - This might be a better place for beginners since there is a strong tide at Gordon's Pier
 - Mud flats are closed due to pollution coming down an adjacent brook
- Helen noted that the town does not have any policies governing the public properties
 - Town has several waterfront properties

Questions

- Do we want to cover all water front issues or just Gordon's Peir?
- What do we do with the building? Business incubator?
- What renovations should be made to the wharf?
- Do the funds place any restrictions on use of the facilities?
 - Did not pursue working waterfront funding that would have restricted recreational access
 - Funding that has been received is not very restrictive
 - might restrict some commercial activities – e.g. advertising
 - must remain a public use facility
- Is there any restriction on use now?
 - People are using it now
 - Need to put in some cautionary signs for water users
- What are the challenges associated with climate change?
- Are there lessons from the Ice Age that would apply to this site?
 - Long Cove in Sullivan has an interpretive panel
- House?
 - 30'*40' structure
 - Living room, bedroom, kitchen upstairs
 - Downstairs: wide open except for furnace
- Museum opportunities

- Tech support from oceanarium
- MERI
- UMaine Franklin Research Center
- Restaurant / lease opportunities
 - Might sell local seafood
 - There are regulatory advantages of selling live rather than cooked
- Boat Ramp
 - Need to explore options for a boat ramp
 - Currents are an issue
 - The cove above the wharf used to have more water. It filled with silt and mussels in the 1970s when mussel harvesting upstream was popular.
 - Dredging that side might be an interest
- Harbor Ordinance
 - Need to gather a subcommittee or separate committee to pursue this
 - Some of these activities need to be decided for this season?
 - Vista Way
 - Ordinance state it is only available for residents, tax payers and people with mooring permits
 - Created a nuisance with too many urchin harvesters and buyers
 - The town has some funds from the mooring fees for this site
- Shellfish Ordinance
 - Noted above

Next Steps

- Meeting times and places
 - First Wednesdays: 4:00 at the Sullivan Town Office
 - Need to hold some evening meetings for people that cannot attend during the day
- Assignments
 - HCPC and DERC&D will prepare GIS maps of the areas of interest
 - Committee members
 - Read the 1993 ordinance
 - Visit the property
 - Talk with neighbors
- Communications
 - An email list should be created to send out announcements, minutes, etc.
 - Heidi Nelson will do a lot of the meeting coordination