

Sullivan Harbor Committee

5/5/2010

Gordon's Wharf Building

Minutes

Attending: Gary Edwards, Harvey Kelley, Misha Mytar, Helen Gordon, Larry Johannesman, Barbara Shanahan, Gail Hastings, Steve Perrin, Jim Fisher, Anne Dederer, Ed Dederer, Johanna Bazolo, Bob Deforrest, John di Pretoro, Beverly Sovet, Gerry Gordon, Jim Doughty

Granite Quarrying

- Steve Perrin is preparing a power point presentation on the history of granite quarrying
- The shipping point ties into several historic granite quarries
- Have worked with the three historical societies
- Worked with stoneworkers
 - Mark Harriman(?)
 - Obidaia Buell – sculpture
 - Gibran Buell
- This might be an interesting tour
 - Gordon's Wharf
 - Buell's Granite garden
 - Harvey's Tote Hole
 - Conrad's
- Second Thursday in July – Presentation at the Friends of Taunton Bay Annual Meeting
- Can preview the program for this community
- Responses
 - Jim Fisher – plan to design interpretive panels for Gordon's Wharf and should consider theme of Granite Quarries
 - Barbara Shanahan – recommend holding a public presentation for residents of Sullivan to learn more about the history of the area
 - Might give this presentation at the Sorrento-Sullivan Historical Society
 - Carl Gray wrote a document about this issue
 - Bicentennial Book has a section on Granite Quarries
 - Gary – would like a short version of the presentation for this committee in June

Organization – need to talk about two issues, Gordon's Wharf in particular and Sullivan waterfronts in general

Gordon's Wharf

- Putting boat access at Gordon's Wharf may result in more use of Taunton Bay
 - Steve Perrin – suggest that we include educational material on resource protection
 - Discouraging people from harassing wildlife

- Explaining the importance of undisturbed
 - Concern about safety
 - The currents are very strong at times
 - There are old bridge abutments, ledge and other hazards
 - Town has had to do some rescues of kayaks and motor boats in the falls
 - This problem requires that the design be as safe as possible
 - Helen – might be possible to dredge the upside of the wharf as it used to be deeper for all tides access
 - Will require signage warning users about tides and risks
 - Concern about over fishing
 - The falls discourage people from clamming and worming above the bridge.
 - There may be excess use of the resources if it is opened up
- Who can use the facility?
 - The state and federal funds stipulate that Gordon's Wharf have public access
 - Can there be a fee for access?
 - Other state and federal facilities charge fees
 - Need to find out if there are any restrictions here

Clean Up Day

- The site needs some cleaning and maintenance, but the town has not prepared a budget.
- Opportunity to walk the site and plan how it might be improved
- Gary suggests June 12th or 19th?

Improvements

- Boat Launch
- Dredging
- Restroom/Privy
- Raising elevation of wharf
- Stabilizing walls
- Surface treatment
 - Gary advocated stone dust or gravel as opposed to paving
- Use of the House
 - Low-tide boat tours
 -
- Larry Johannesman – asks that we put together a wish list for Gordon's Wharf
 - Historic
 - Recreational
 - Environmental
 - Economic – to make the wharf self sustaining through fees
- This can be done

Local Harbor Ordinance

- Group looked at the harbor map prepared by HCPC
- Four sites are identified
 - Gordon's Wharf
 - Sullivan Harbor
 - Town Landing
 - Ober Cove Road
- A fifth location may be developable north of Gordon's Wharf
- Concerns
 - Urchin fishermen come into Sullivan Harbor, live on their boats, don't pay user fees
 - The urchin fishery is largely unregulated – no catch limits, no residence requirements
 - Town has been spending funds to fix roads and ramps, but many of the users are not paying for the facility

Next Meeting:

- Wednesday June 2nd, 4:00 PM at Gordon's Wharf
- Meeting will continue at the Sullivan Town Office with slide presentation