

Sullivan Harbor Public Meeting

6/20/2011

Present: Gary Edwards, Rusty Gordon, John Guyton, Jim Fisher, Steve Perrin, Tim Doughty, Helen Gordon, Clint & Eleanor Ritchie, Tom & Johanna Bazzolo, Roger Wakefield, Bob DeForrest, Marty Anderson, Frank Dedmon.

Meeting called to order by Gary Edwards at 7:05 PM

Introductions

Mission of the committee

- Look at the property
- Develop a use plan

Partners

- Town of Sullivan
- DERC&D
- Friends of Taunton Bay
- Frenchman Bay Conservancy
- Maine Coast Heritage Trust
- Schoodic National Scenic Byway

History

- Wharf was built in the 1800's to serve the granite industry
- At one time there were six wharves used to load granite
- This is the only remaining wharf
- Track Road was used to transport granite down to the river
- Home was renovated by Helen Gordon

Funding

- Frenchman Bay Conservancy
- Land for Maine's Future
 - Primarily recreational use, but permits some commercial use
- Town of Sullivan – proposed \$10,000 to use as seed and matching funds to move forward on future projects
- Schoodic National Scenic Byway

Purpose

- Town was interested in public access to the water
- Recreational opportunities
- Supporting limited commercial use
- Historic interpretation

Features of the Wharf

- Granite structure
 - Granite shelf in front for resting schooners while loading
- House
 - Leased upper floor of the house to Maine Coast Heritage Trust & Friends of Taunton Bay
 - Bottom floor is still available for lease
 - Will need to install a ramp to the second floor to meet ADA requirements

Work completed to date

- Acquisition of the property
- Survey of the site
- Replacement of the deck
- Rent of the building to MCHT and FTB

Water Access

- Four public access points (on map)
 - Gordon's Wharf
 - Sullivan Harbor
 - Western end of Flanders Bay
 - half tide+
 - some parking
 -
 - Eastern end of Flanders Bay – Ober Cove Road
 - half tide+
 - primarily hand carry
 - no public parking space

Safety

- Tides will be a challenge in this location
- Need to promote safety and user education

Possible Improvements for the Wharf

- Road improvements
- Structural wharf improvements
- Parking
- Boat Ramp
- Float
- Limited storage of traps (short term only)
- Interpretive and informational signage
- Bridging streams – improvements to historic culverts
- Overflow parking by the town park

Next Steps

- RFP – for inspection of the Wharf
 - Identify problems with the wharf
 - Estimating the costs for repairs
 - Establishing feasibility of a boat ramp

Questions and Comments

- What is the vote about next week?
 - Approval of \$10,000 for seed/match for future projects
- Some services act are also acceptable as match
- Can Sullivan apply for access for Maine's Future?
 - Yes, we can apply for that
 - Timing is difficult – the funds are for reimbursement
 - Need to encumber the funds before the time runs out
- Steve – like the latest design
 - Provides for balanced use – not just a parking lot
 - Provides visual access, boat access
 - The committee worked a long time on this

- Did the committee recommend the ordinance amendments to the selectboard?
 - Not ready for that yet
- Do we have enough parking for the future
 - The house appears to have about five spots
 - If there is a big event
- Who is responsible for managing the site?
 - The Harbor Master and select board would be responsible
- Would like to put a path in from Sumner Park
 - Might also have a path to the quarries
- Have we ruled out a Johnny on the Spot?
 - There is a good chance of putting in a porta-potty
 - These would be managed like the facility at Flanders Pond

Ordinances – See handout

Gordon's Wharf Draft Rules and Regulations

- Uses need to be defined
- Statement of purposed
- Want to encourage recreational use
- Facility Rental
 - Grounds may be leased
 - Lease space for full time storage

Overall Harbor Ordinance

- Frank – used local funds for Sullivan Harbor to maintain local control, but we can't control it
- May be possible to do more enforcement
- People are tying up the harbors to unload catch rather than putting in boats
 - Some are running refrigerator trucks day and night in public locations
 - Town may be able to charge a fee for this use
- Having trouble last year with mussel and scallop dragging in the Harbor
 - Draggers are disturbing moorings and causing a lot of damage to aquatic life
 - Want to ban dragging in the harbor
- Town will need to enter into cooperative agreements with the neighboring towns

Questions and Comments

- Learning from other towns
 - Sorrento – town is working with harbor master to regulate all moorings placement in waters around Sorrento
 - Identifying mooring locations by a harbor master will help combat draggers that go through those areas.
 - Gouldsboro – is requiring fishing plans from draggers in order to permit them