

Sunapee Harbor Reconfiguration Committee  
Meeting Notes – 11/ 13/2024 5:30 p.m. Abbott Library

In Attendance - Steve McGrath, Aaron Whipple, Mike Kelly, Diane Robbins, Deb Pasculano, Marybeth Carroll, Jeff Savage, Chris Whitehouse, Tim Fenton, Sarah Scrivani, Chris Murphy

Chris M is designated as our Facilitator (specifically not "Chair"). We started by going around the room and introducing ourselves, all eleven members were in attendance.

The following items were discussed

- The idea of allowing public attendance at meetings was raised. The majority agreed that since we are more of a “think tank” that the group would like to keep it as is. Some post meeting correspondence suggesting this issue may need additional discussion.:-
- The group consensus is we all want to be open minded and hear what each other has to say.
- The majority agreed we are tasked with brain-storming. If outcomes of our efforts were ever considered worthy of implementation, they would be brought to decision makers who would bring it for public input and process. At the end of the day we have no authority to make decisions.
- We discussed “What is the Harbor” geographically? Where does it start and end? Does it include all the way to Rt 11? Is it the immediate vicinity where the shops are located? No decision was made but we teased out the idea. The map from the Charette was passed around and used for discussion.
- We identified which properties are public, which properties are owned by Sunapee Harbor Riverway Corp (SHR) and which are owned by others. Steve gave us a brief history of SHR formation.
- There seemed a consensus re “improving” the harbor area (that area not necessarily defined geographically) but doing so with a sensitivity towards tradition.
- Potential shuttle service to mitigate traffic in the summer months was discussed.
- We are interested in a better understanding of the SHR’s future plans; Steve will connect with the SHR to discuss a joint meeting.
- Steve and Marybeth are going to look further into the Ben Mere file (the Gazebo parcel) to see what are allowable uses and if the use can be changed. They are going to review deeds for 1 Lake Ave, aka the town docks, the parking lot and the park. The Ben Mere was given to the Town of Sunapee.
- Potential off-season recreational use of the rear of the Gazebo parcel
- Chris M is going to get more intel on the RFP for the Sunapee Dock feasibility study and send to all
- The group brainstormed “How can activity be promoted in the harbor in the winter and shoulder seasons”? We thought that creation of a social committee or group that was dedicated to activity formation in the harbor was a good idea. The “Sunapee Village Christmas” and the skating rink were given as examples of this type of activity.
- Harbor Groups – we talked about the various groups that are looking at the future of Sunapee harbor including (1) ours, (2) SHR long range planning committee and (3) the Town of Sunapee.
- Steve, a member of the SHR operations committee, shared with us ideas that are being considered.

The next meeting date was set for Thursday, December 12th.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Pasculano