

Sunapee Harbor Reconfiguration Committee
Meeting Notes – 4/9/2025 5:30 p.m. Abbott Library

In Attendance: Chris Murphy, Marybeth Carroll, Tim Fenton, Michael Kelly, Steve McGrath,
Deb Pasculano, Diane Robbins, Aaron Whipple, Christian Whitehouse

Kyle Davis, Town of Sunapee, and Duncan Mellor, Civil Works, attended to discuss Sunapee Harbor town docks. Currently doing repairs to maintain aging infrastructure. They came to our meeting to “listen to us and gather input”. Their next meeting is with staff, then CW will make initial drawings. There are three options for the scope of expansion (1) keep as is, (2) expand capacity (3) allow CW suggestions. DSS requirement is to stay within the footprint between adjacent property lines. Suggestions generated during our discussion follows (1) goal is to bring people to the harbor via boat (2) there is NOT enough current boat parking (3) a spot for leaving a boat immediately after launching, (4) people currently launch kayaks or canoes (5) safety service parking (fire and police), (6) spots for sail boats, (7) “leave the door open” for a hybrid setup to lease dock space during the week, if not used by public, (8) docks with ease of use, (9) will need to be “sold” to the community, (10) dock life spans, (11) space for fishing off dock, (12) how many slips can be accommodated? 20 are ideal (13) keep tour and dinner boats, (14) a dock that elderly or adaptive people can access, (15) year round docks, (16) solo launching is difficult if there isn’t a temp dock space. CW will need to ask for a waiver from DES, it is “public” property for use by the public so it should be approved we ask for what we want and ask for a waiver for it based on the public benefit. These are our thoughts on dock expansion.

Sunapee high school has approved a senior summer project to develop a profile of who uses the Sunapee harbor boat launch. The student(s) can develop and execute a survey and report the results. We should also explore getting lake hosts to gather information. It would be good to know the percentage of people who live on the lake, how many for the day launches, locals vs out of staters, residents vs commercial. Does a senior want to be part of the committee as their senior project?

Steve McGrath will draft a letter regarding repairing the State Beach boat launch to the governor and senator signed by the Select board (Aaron to coordinate) to be delivered and supported by George Grant (Aaron will ask George to be involved).

We discussed opening Beech St extension, which is a town owned right of way, to avoid having to drive through the harbor. It must be a one way street, use it as an exit out of the harbor to reduce summer traffic. This group is in favor of further exploration.

Rt 11 Town of Sunapee sign - John Wiggins owns the property, Sunapee Lions Club built the sign and nobody maintains it. How hard would it be to put an arrow on the current sign? Does sign need to be updated? We are conceptualized improved signage to bring people to the harbor which is part of a greater plan. Could there be a stack of signs that lets you know what’s in the harbor?

We will continue discussion re: town waterfront parcel (currently used for parking and green space). This is a more significant topic which needs a fair amount of time going forward.