



Public Kick-Off Meeting #1 : Scribe Notes – Room 2

Nov 15th, 2021

Name of Scribe: Jill Cahill

Name of Facilitators: Matthew Littell

Date: 11/15/21

Number of people in group: 14

Part I - Mapping Activity: Harbor strengths, weaknesses, opportunities

- **Harbor strengths** (areas on the harbor or development activity that is working well and should be maintained or protected)
- **Harbor weaknesses** (areas of concern or issues that can be improved upon or redeveloped)
- **Harbor opportunity** (areas and places that present potential for new ideas, visioning, and development).

Discussion One: Harbor strengths, weaknesses, opportunities

Individual comments:

Maureen Aylward - Harbor Cove, concerned about vacancies, economic development opportunities, how do owners get help? What can we do? How can we find tenants in these parcels

Susanah - I4C2, harbor landing, need for skilled workers, training for workers, referred to 2010, City owned/operated salt water campus

Scott Memhard - Harbor Cove, city owns 112 Commercial Street, did some work but it needs additional work and is not being used to its full potential, business owners and residents see it as an underutilized parcel, parking as possible temporary use

Damon Cummings - Harbor Cove, particularly interested in city owned property, if not used appropriately and following the law, in city's interest and responsibility to do the appropriate legal things on those properties, supports research, fishing, building boats, keep it in the DPA and Ch 91 regulations

Tom Burger - I4C2, key economic development location, need to actively address the future of that parcel,

Susanah - reviewed the history of the project of the US Navy boat project, boat building manual

Al Cattone - last meeting we discussed a non-occupied piece of property could be 9 vessels/slips

Kathryn clarified that anything more than 9 vessels is a marina

Matt - process will drill down on some of the technical details like the discrepancies between vessels vs. slips

Discussion:

Part II - Summary: 2-3 key harbor priorities

Key priorities discussion:

Lisa Rigsby - resident W2-1, harbor is her backyard, interest is to listen and learn more about the planning process, interested in the opportunities of the blue economy that will allow to stay within bounds but also bring innovation, tourism and climate resiliency

Maureen Aylward - culture and arts perspective, restricts what can happen in harbor cove, rich community, arts and culture, interested in the possibility of other options and if the city or state can help facilitate this

Tom Burger - agree with arts and culture needs, and conference center space, conference space could be an attribute for Gloucester

Damon Cummings - MA has been losing its industrial waterfront space, state and Gloucester needs to focus on keeping waterfront properties available for future industrial use, need access preserved for marine purposes. Don't want to see anything built on the waterfront that could be built across the street

Susannah - history of Gloucester has always allowed for marine industry and tourism to co-exist,

Damon - tourist primary interest is marine industry, want to learn about the types of boats and what they do, his experience as a tour guide

Susanah - build a facility where tourist can observe boat building

Tom Burger - I4C2 has opportunity to make a true arts, cultural, heritage center, allow for people to enjoy the harbor on a year round basis. Benefits the students in the performing arts and also in culinary arts (high demand). Promote Gloucester Fresh and fish through demo kitchens. Enliven the downtown, enliven the whole city

Maureen - schooners and opportunities to get tourist and local down to the harbor, see the working waterfront, show support for the schooners, more coordination from city, property owners, tourism groups. Economic Development help for harbor cove

Reporting back. The facilitator/member of the group to report back to the larger group and reviews key priorities and larger takeaways from group discussion.

Harbor Cove got a lot of interest

Public properties of particular interest

Preserving DPA

Variety of uses to be contemplated - conference center, arts/culture, tourism

Marine industrial uses are important aspect of tourism economy

CHAT LOG:

From Sunny Robinson to Everyone: 07:41 PM

A good comment made in our group that I think is worth repeating is that the waterfront and downtown need to be sustained for the year round community that lives and works. Sunny here. Sunny

From Valerie Nelson to Everyone: 07:42 PM

We should look forward to the economic development strategies that Utile will be recommending for marine industrial uses in the DPA.

From Andree Robert to Everyone: 07:44 PM

Is anyone studying how many of the businesses on the harbor in the DPA are operating mainly by truck and not by boat?

From Patti Page to Everyone: 07:45 PM

There is a mix of both off load from waterfront and truck delivery.

From Alexandra Stella D'maris to Everyone: 07:45 PM

Sunny -yes !

Too much weight is placed on tourist concerns at the moment imho at the expense of the citizens.

From Maureen Aylward to Everyone: 07:46 PM

What will be available to property owners in DPA/Chap 91 in terms of economic development assistance to identify marine industrial or marine research companies that want to locate to COG?

From Valerie Nelson to Everyone: 07:48 PM

Federal and state money should help with that.

From Lisa Smith to Everyone: 07:48 PM

There are ways to light the harbor without over lighting the harbor and creating light pollution to the people who live near the harbor.

From Jo-Ann Castano to Everyone: 07:48 PM

Might it be helpful to have a larger public discussion on the difference between cultural tourism vs. general tourism? The Mount Auburn Plan addressed a bit of that regarding the harbor.

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From Gemma Wilkens - COG to Everyone: 07:48 PM

<https://harborplan.gloucester-ma.gov/>

From karen ristuben to Everyone: 07:49 PM

Good idea Jo-Ann Castano. And how business travel/conference space helps a community.

From Valerie Nelson to Everyone: 07:50 PM

But not on the waterfront.

From Marcia Hart to Everyone: 07:50 PM

Yes I remember that from the Mt auburn Plan and felt it was a very important discussion

From Zoe Mueller - Consultant, Utile to Everyone: 07:50 PM

Andree - yes, the consultant team has been working to differentiate between catch arriving by truck vs. over the docks. This Harbor Plan Committee presentation from September addresses some related questions:

<https://harborplan.gloucester-ma.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/210901.HPC-Economic-Strategy-Baseline-Detailed-Follow-Up.pdf>

From Valerie Nelson to Everyone: 07:50 PM

Those activities can be located on Main Street.

From karen ristuben to Everyone: 07:50 PM

Thank you for this information and opportunity to exchange ideas!

From Andree Robert to Everyone: 07:51 PM

What is the Mt Auburn Plan?

From Sunny Robinson to Everyone: 07:51 PM

The Mt Auburn Plan was never seriously discussed. It would be a very good discussion to have after we review it. Sunny

From Valerie Gilman to Everyone: 07:51 PM

Very helpful first meeting. Thanks.

From Axel Magnuson to Me: (Direct Message) 07:51 PM

What about solar panels on the large processing plants?

From Marcia Hart to Everyone: 07:51 PM

Thank you to the consultants and local organizers

From Sunny Robinson to Everyone: 07:51 PM

Gregg, is the Mt auburn Plan still available on the Harbor section of the web site.? Sunny

From Patti Page to Everyone: 07:51 PM

The GMRI Marine Innovation center study of 2014 should be presented to the committee

From Taskina Tareen - Consultant to Everyone: 07:51 PM

The Social Pinpoint will continue to be live on the website, please continue to add your thoughts!

From LISA RIGSBY to Everyone: 07:51 PM

Thank you, this was interesting and informative!

From C/O O'Neil to Everyone: 07:51 PM

I think this was a good first meeting. I liked breaking up into small groups.