



## **Public Kick-Off Meeting #1 : Scribe Notes – Room 4**

**Nov 15th, 2021**

Name of Scribe: Nasser Brahim

Name of Facilitators: Jason Hellendrung

Date: 11/15/21

Number of people in group:

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**NB** Nasser Brahim - Consultant, WHG (Co-host, me)

 Jason Hellendrung, Facilitator (Co-host)

**RN** Rick Noonan - HPC Chair (Co-host)

**SR** Sefatia Romeo Theken (Co-host)

**AR** Amy Ross

**AM** Ann Molloy

**CW** Candace Wheeler

 CourtNey Cole

**DA** Dave Andrews-BRR

**DE** Deborah Eliason

 Duncan Hollomon

 karen ristuben

**LS** Linda Stout

**LS** Lisa Smith

**MH** Marcia Hart

**R** Robert

 Steve Douglass

 Steve Douglass

**TS** Tyler Soleau

**TS** Tyler Soleau

**VN** Valerie Nelson

**VN** Valerie Nelson

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## 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).
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## Discussion One: Harbor strengths, weaknesses, opportunities

### *Individual comments:*

#### 1. *Strengths*

- a. Marcia Hunt - spends a lot of time around the Harbor, doesn't have a boat or fishing family. Hopes it remains a hub of marine industry into the future, that's what makes it most interesting to her. Mixed use adds dynamics, charm and interest to the harbor. Lots of types of activity. Other harbors have turned all industrial, all recreational, or all development. Important thing is to maintain the balance, she sees the balance going in the direction of recreational and tourism, while she values and appreciates the economic and community events it generates, doesn't want it to become just a tourist destination. Values the history and authenticity.
- b. Valerie Nelson - dynamic and innovative fishing industry around Harbor Cove
- c. Lisa Smith - I4C2 has nice view
- d. Steve Douglass - for 400 years harbor has been a jewel for the city
- e. Marcia - I listened to the Economic report made by this consulting group and it was even more positive about the commercial seafood industry here than I thought possible. The blue economy was not quite as positive but still hopeful. What I read about the Blue Economy report in the newspaper made it sound like it was primarily tourism was the positive economic force on the harbor. The reality of what various industries provide to the community in terms of employment needs to be made clear to the community. After this consulting group's presentation I wondered why the city wasn't shouting it from the rooftops. (from chat)
- f. Amy Ross - overlooks the harbor, beautiful. Commends the city on the open process and looks forward to the outcome.

#### 2. *Weaknesses*

- a. Amy Ross - There are areas that could be developed further. Infringement of lots of recreational boats of late, not sure DPA regulations are operating consistently throughout the harbor. Questions how that is occurring.
- b. Steve Douglass - underutilized jewel, something has got to give to create a broader business base.
- c. Lisa Smith - lighting (pollution) is very bright in harbor area ,especially around State fish pier. Very congested on 127, whale watches etc. Not very pretty.
- d. Lisa Smith - I4C2 loading is a problem that will get worse with sea level rise.
- e. Valerie - high flood and storm surge areas
- f. Valerie - economic development opportunities in 2015 plan have not really been pursued. Serious economic development for fishing and marine industrial zone should be a priority, the opportunity presented by Kevin Hively was great and the public needs to be educated.
- g. Robert - We must lead by example, City owns condemned waterfront property. (from chat)
- h. Robert - We need more dockage. Areas like Capt Joe and Sons, Building Center, areas of the Fort, East Gloucester Freezer, Gortons, etc, all map to underutilized condemned non-productive waterfront property. (from chat)
- i. Marcia Hart - When is the CZM report coming out? It seems like the climate changes coming needs to be considered at the very start of this plan. (from chat)
- j. Marcia Hart - I wish we had a community boating program for all ages. (from chat)
- k. Duncan Hollomon - Agrees it's over lit by State Pier. Appreciates this public process. Moved to Gloucester recently, just catching up on all the issues and history that have been argued over for years.
- l. Candace - Shares concerns about wind energy and its impact on fishing, fishing is the backbone of the city in the face of what climate change has been doing to availability of the fish species which are migrating.
- m. Marcia Hunt - IC42 - people take the view for granted, people express a lot of frustration that it has not gone to better use, parking lot is not the best use, though it has been functioning for parking and parking is something they really need. Doesn't support civic center, should not be non-industrial. Ok with it being a park, but not something exclusive requiring tickets. Like it to support the industries that are trying to make it around the harbor.

### 3. *Opportunities*

- a. Steve Douglass - Is a business person on the waterfront, over the years has been curious to create more dockage, doesn't understand why there is not a committee of influential people to set up 10a permits a stretch floats system along Gortons and Americold. Understands someone wanted to do that previously. Would create a broader tax base more visiting transient visitors, Harbormasters and water shuttle could move people around and for other marine services
- b. Valerie Nelson - Boston has created interesting sponge areas that deal with flooding. Harbor offers opportunities for dealing with storm surge, flooding

- c. Karen Ristuben - Gloucester Forum proposed as non-profit for I4C2 to serve creative economy and blue economy. Group has undertaken significant engagement, small meetings, modifying plans and concept based on feedback. Performance center, home for Cape Ann symphony, conferences for GMI/blue economy. Mixed-use building. Catalytic for infrastructure improvement in Harbor Cove (under wharves, docks need work), economic revitalization, welcoming space for public access and from Main St businesses to waterfront.
- i. Valerie Nelson - Gloucester Forum land use is not allowable under current State regulations. 2015 plan GMRI study for marine innovation center with architectural drawings were carried out but never followed through - should be reopened, would be compliant with State rules.
  - ii. Valerie - A civic center with a few things like a kitchen are simply not allowed. We need to protect our DPA. (from chat)
  - iii. Valerie - The economic analysis showed a strong fishing industry — but more investment is a good idea. Not a cultural/civic center. (from chat). Civic centers generate seasonal low wage jobs (weddings, etc), versus the working waterfront which helps families and workers.
  - iv. Karen - A nonprofit civic center that serves Gloucester's marine and cultural heritage would facilitate marine innovation and be a wonderful year-round public place to gather. It could a place to have a demonstration kitchen for Gloucester seafood and feature exhibits about the fishing industry, past and present. (from chat)
  - v. Karen - A public/private partnership for Harbor Cove and I4C2 would catalyze economic development goals upland and harbor side, including creating jobs in both maritime and arts. As a nonprofit entity it would serve numerous community interests. The building would be open as a free, accessible public space most of the time, and be a year-round gathering place.
  - vi. Marcia Hart - A cultural facility of a size that is consistent with Gloucester's building size would be much more valuable on Main St to help revitalize it and create foot traffic there. (from chat)
  - vii. Ann Molloy - agrees with Marcia and Valerie, rules of the DPA dont allow civic center and should work within those rules. Working waterfront is the priority, have lots of trucks need to get em in and out, traffic getting worse in summer, doesn't want to ruin the view of the brick buildings, would change whole look of the harbor and Gloucester and views.
  - viii. Deborah Eliason - Supports mixed use development, what happened on rogers street could be catalyst for what happens on main st. Uses that are not just marine industrial but could support marine industrial and businesses in the area. Gloucester Forum could have a surcharge that would go to fund to support infrastructure on the harbor. Previous HPC meetings, concerns about where funding would come from for infrastructure improvements on private properties, this could do that.

- d. Linda Stout - Create employment opportunities that provide livable wages, not simply service industry employment. (from chat).
  - e. Robert Alves - Waterfronts such as New Bedford and Boston shared similar DPA challenges. Can we reach out to the leaders of said communities in order they share their agreed to Best Practices. Secondly, successes mapped to the State House? (from chat)
  - f. Robert Alves - Building Center, can we lease, negotiate that land? Priceless waterfront property
  - g. Ann Molloy - Needs to get restrictions off fishermen, highest priority, so can get up and running again to help the working waterfront.
  - h. Candace Wheeler - Hoping to include plans for renewable energy, thinking of opportunities on wide flat roofs that could accommodate solar installations, community solar sponsored by multiple users, find users for the electricity to create revenue for the building owners, or as a municipal project similar to the city's wind turbines.
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## **Part II - Summary: 2-3 key harbor priorities**

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### *Key priorities discussion:*

- 1.

### *Show of Hands on the Choices:*

- 1.
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## CHAT LOG: