



Public Kick-Off Meeting #1 : Scribe Notes – Room 5

Nov 15th, 2021

Name of Scribe: Sal Di Stefano

Name of Facilitators: Gemma Wilkens

Date: 11/15/20210

Number of people in group: [See list](#)

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:

Ken Hecht-He is most concerned about Harbor Cove. He wants to see 3 prong approach, the redevelopment of I4C2 (he disclosed he is on the board of the Gloucester Forum who will propose a performance center). The second thing is the redevelopment of Rogers Street with more greenery, sidewalks, and other improvements on Roger Street. The third thing he would like to see is beautiful Murals to be put on buildings on our waterfront.

Sunny Robinson-Her perspective is dual, the strength is that our Harbor is marine industrial. The weakness is susceptibility to sea level rise. We have to decide how we are going to help protect it. The strengths are reflective of the weaknesses. We need to stop piling up all developments on the harbor to preserve our working waterfront while protecting it from climate changes.

Meg Jarret-She agrees with Sunny that we should not shove everything into one area. She never heard anyone mention that we have Gorton's, a major employer, that it will be negatively impacted by additional development. She agrees some improvements need to be made to Rogers street but we need to consider the impact.

Jason Grow-We are concerned about water dependent and Marine industrial. How many of these sites are used for water dependent. For example, Gortons, is a great company, but they do not utilize the water. Americold also does not use the water. He would like to see a map of businesses who are in the DPA but are not water dependant. He knows I4C2 is a popular topic, but he wants to see it on a map of properties that do not use the water but are in the DPA.

Discussion:

Part II - Summary: 2-3 key harbor priorities

Key priorities discussion:

Ken Reif-Things that are abutting the water should be water dependant and buildings that are not should find another. He is concerned about things taking place that are on the waterfront but no water dependant.

Jason Grow-Interested how we integrate two sides, downtown and waterfront. We should look at industries that are water dependant and have synthesis with our city. We have a lot of businesses that are waterfront that used the water at one time, but are not longer. While we can't ask anyone to go, but maybe we could direct new ones elsewhere.

Tracy Mark- I would like to see marine uses on the waterfront. She would like to see new ideas like aquaculture and investment in young fishermen. She would like I4C2 to stay green because it takes on a lot of water.

Jayne Knott-She agrees with Ken and Jason on keeping the waterfront for marine purposes. Gloucester is unique that it is a deep water port and we should make it available for vessels that need it. She is concerned about sea-level rise. Any plans we make need to take that into account. Need to keep underground infrastructure in mind.

Joanne Castano-She agrees with keeping the harbor with our fishing industry. She is an artist and activist. Many artists are used to seeing the working waterfront. We are striving for authenticity. She wants to hear from the fishing industry if we diversify on how it will impact them.

Kim Radochia- She is concerned with sea level rise and destruction. She would like to see I4C2 green.

Amanda Nash-She is concerned with sea level rise and destruction. She would like to see I4C2 to accommodate storm water like in the Netherlands. Less stuff paved over.

Dennis McGurk-He wants to see a balance, we have a small waterfront. It is crowded as it is. If you go around our coast you will see open space. We should have nice open spaces where you can park and have a picnic. Find a way to leave open space while we accommodate water related industries. He does not want to lose the open space we do have.

Sunny Robinson-There are two priorities: strengthening Marine industrial base, while dealing with sea level rise and the challenges we need to face. Do not get stuck with fishing, lobstering, but think with breadth of marine industrial.

Mike DeKoster-20 years ago we preserved a small part of Harbor Loop. We preserved this piece of working waterfront for future generations. We need to make sure that our marine industrial businesses coincide with tourism. We should make more use of resources. We should maintain our authentic working waterfront.

Meg-We should be a year-round downtown, not just tourism. We want our restaurants open for our year-round population. Our Gorton's sign is our Citgo sign like in Boston. For decades Gorton's has supported our small businesses. It needs to be a significant community year-round.

Ken Hecht-Agrees with support of fishing industry, and sea-level rise concern. He thinks there could be a nice public use of I4C2 with supporting the fishing industry. One does not exclude the other.

Jason Grow-He wants to make sure that everyone knows he loves that Gorton's is located there he just wants to make sure we are looking at uses of businesses on the water, and within the DPA but not water dependant, but just making sure DPA is working the way it should for Gloucester.

Chat:

From Sunny Robinson to Everyone: 07:00 PM

We also have other major employers at the other end on commercial St. Sunny

From Jo-Ann Castano to Everyone: 07:19 PM

Amanda Nash makes excellent points. Open space as also preservation for the future if needed for marine industrial use. Sunny Robinson said it all. Thanks Sunny.

From Sunny Robinson to Everyone: 07:20 PM

Thanks, Jo-Ann. Sunny

From Nash Amanda to Everyone: 07:22 PM

Thanks Jo-Ann and I liked your point about not dividing the arts from the maritime industry

Chat:

Jason Grow, City Councilor -

From Jamie Fay to Everyone: 06:41 PM

Jamie Fay, Fort Point Associates

From Michael De Koster to Everyone: 06:41 PM

Michael De Koster - Maritime Gloucester

From Ken Hecht to Everyone: 06:41 PM

Ken Hecht, Board of Directors Gloucester Forum, former City Councilor.

From Jayne Knott-Consultant to Everyone: 06:41 PM

Jayne Knott - HydroAnalysis and resident of Gloucester

From Sunny Robinson to Everyone: 06:41 PM

Maybe point out to folks that they can open their video. Sunny Robinson, Cape Ann Local Action

From Nash Amanda to Everyone: 06:41 PM

Amanda Nash (she/they) Cape Ann Local Action

From Tracy Mark to Everyone: 06:42 PM

Tracy Mark, Cape Ann Local Action

From Gemma Wilkens - COG to Everyone: 06:42 PM

<https://utile.mysocialpinpoint.com/gloucester-harbor-plan/map#/>

From Jo-Ann Castano to Everyone: 06:42 PM

Jo-Ann Castano, artist, cultural activist

From Meg Jarrett to Everyone: 06:43 PM

Meg Jarrett, Resident

From Nash Amanda to Everyone: 06:44 PM

I'm on my phone, not gonna use the bells n whistles

From Sal Di Stefano-COG to Everyone: 06:46 PM

Hi Everyone, Sal Di Stefano, Economic Development Director, COG

From jason grow to Everyone: 07:00 PM

I can't locate a Raise Hand button...

From Sunny Robinson to Everyone: 07:00 PM

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Thanks, Jo-Ann. Sunny

From Nash Amanda to Everyone: 07:22 PM

Thanks Jo-Ann and I liked your point about not dividing the arts from the maritime industry

From Jayne Knott-Consultant to Everyone: 07:27 PM

Thank you all for your thoughtful comments. This is very interesting and important.

From Jo-Ann Castano to Everyone: 07:27 PM

Thank you Gemma, good job and appreciated.

From Sunny Robinson to Everyone: 07:30 PM

Gregg will remember for sure. Sunny

From Jayne Knott-Consultant to Everyone: 07:30 PM

Excellent idea, Sunny.

From Nash Amanda to Everyone: 07:30 PM

Thanks y'all, very interesting thoughts

From David Rosen to Everyone: 07:33 PM

I think Gregg Cademartori summarized the issues well in our breakout group. How do you balance the desire to keep the harbor a working harbor while allowing new uses that may not be maritime related to help support the local economy?

From Jason Hellendrung, Facilitator to Everyone: 07:34 PM

That's a great place to be!

From Patti Page to Everyone: 07:37 PM

Don't do it

From Linda Stout to Everyone: 07:38 PM

Other Infrastructure considerations: vehicle access/traffic and parking

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 Rick Noonan - HPC Chair to Everyone: 07:41 PM

Thanks Sunny

From Jill Cahill - COG to Everyone: 07:42 PM

We are downloading all of the comments in chat, so please feel free to share here.

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.

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

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

