

BAR HARBOR FERRY TERMINAL PROPERTY  
MARINE USE SUBCOMMITTEE  
September 18, 2017  
Meeting Notes

Present: Anna Durand & Joe Minutolo, chairs; Dennis Bercale, Deborah Page, Janice Hanscom, Pat Samuel, Natalie Springuel, Valerie Peacock, Autumn Soares

Anna gave a review of the agenda and the purpose of the committee. Joe noted some of the current problems in town, and how using the pier could potentially address some of those issues. He urged the committee to consider the full suite of possibilities that could benefit the most people in town. He wants to ensure the debt is tolerable for a small town. Uses he wants to investigate (supplemented by the committee) include:

- Marina with electric hook up
- Boat Ramp
- Breakwater
- Fuel for marine uses
- Float for tendering cruise tourists for ANP
- Float for Winter Harbor ferry
- Float for commercial uses
- Staging area for tour buses
- Water taxi
- Parking – make walking route more suitable
- Island Explorer stop
- Information Center/Museum
- Public Restrooms
- Services for Fishing industry
- Recreation/green space/public space/farmers market
- Museum
- School for fishing apprentices
- Kayak storage with parking

These should be weighed based on costs, revenues, environment and other consequences.

He advocated letting these marine uses evolve without having to spend a lot of money up-front.

A committee member suggested the list include a school for lobster sternmen, a loop to the pier from the downtown tendering drop-off location, personal kayak storage, Island Explorer stop, marina with electric hook-up, swimming beach. She wants to see Bar Harbor retain its Port of Entry status, rather than Customs & Immigration at a private facility.

Cornell said he expected to hear the status of the environmental covenant by next week.

Another member added the possibility of tour boats and whale watch boats. COA might want to rebuild the whale museum.

In the past there were up to four whale watch boats; that use has been taken over by one of the hotels.

Solar panels could be added to the facility, and some potential uses might not even be thought of yet, like aquaculture would not have been a decade or two ago.

Bar Harbor landed \$7 million of lobster last year, but there is not a bait supplier, lobster buyer or other services common to lobster communities. The constant presence of tourists makes it very difficult for the fishermen to use the same wharf. Could the pier supply space for a lobster coop, or sustainable fisheries market? If groundfish make a comeback, there is no extra space in Bar Harbor for boats or fishermen. We need to consider separating uses between commercial and tourism. Fishermen were here first but are always last in priority of uses.

#### Public Comment Session:

- He shared anecdotal information from one fishermen exclaimed that he did not want to be moved out to the terminal space. This committee needs to talk to fishermen before recommending the terminal site could be good for them.
- The idea of teaching people to lobster is very appealing, as well as teaching aquaculture. A bike lane-type space between the pier and Hulls Cove could be reserved for small boats within the first 100 yards of the shore.
- Need to consider Homeland Security.
- If this space is not used for cruise ships, might they be kept farther off shore? Removing the cruise ships as a source of pollution would be good for the ecology of the bay.
- Is it possible that property owners would allow more space for walking from the pier into town?

Anna suggested that a rendering of the pier with these marine uses would be helpful, and noted this committee might ultimately merge with the tendering committee.

There are concerns about the vantage of the pier not being ideal for small boats. The committee should focus on current problems this potential use could address.

It was suggested that the committee consider marine uses in the context of the uses and challenges at the current town pier. We also do not want to suggest uses that are going to adversely impact businesses in town.

Another member suggested the committee consider the public/private component to funding. Private sector funding may be available to support certain uses such as waterfront access.

The committee should consider adding “sense of place” to the list of factors to consider. What is the Bar Harbor waterfront heritage or brand?

The marina is a big umbrella accommodating many of these uses.

Where does COA and the Yacht Club fit in? Would this be more of a commercial marina? Currently the town marina just has moorings.

The town needs to manage cruise ship passengers so that they don't come at the same time the auto tourists are coming. The crux of this issue is the congestion downtown. Could a future marina address this problem?

There are too many cruise ships coming and we need to pay more attention to the demographics of the cruise ships.

It's possible the committee will propose something so good that it results in fewer cruise ship passengers because they won't be needed to support the town's economy. Consider only small ships coming in for only two days a week.

Adding new parking spaces on the pier does not necessarily free up parking spaces in town, as more cars might come. The way to reduce cars is to make part of Bar Harbor car-free.

How much demand for a marina in Bar Harbor actually exists? The town has a negative reputation for marine uses.

The committee was urged to talk to people in town to get information from the public.

They divided up the subjects to explore as: 1) marine and marine-related; 2) Parking and transportation (including Winter Harbor Ferry and water taxi), and 3) cultural. Sub-committees will examine each use and fill out the work sheet.

Committees:

Parking and Transportation: Anna, Denise, Autumn

Marine and marine related: Deborah, Joe, Janice, Natalie, Valerie

Cultural: Pat, new member to be appointed

Anna suggested surveying town residents (registered voters) in the next two months. There was discussion about how to get input from others who would be impacted, but don't live in Bar Harbor.

All meetings of three or more people need to be publicly noticed three days in advance. Going forward, only two people on each sub-committee will meet at a given time, or each should examine the issue separately.

Work sheets are due back to Anna on Sept 28. She will forward them to Elizabeth to combine.