

Sunapee Harbor Reconfiguration Committee
Meeting Notes – 2/10/2025 4:30 p.m. Abbott Library

Attendance: Steve McGrath, Diane Robbins, Chris Whitehouse, Marybeth Carroll, Tim Fenton, Sarah Scrivani, Michael Kelly, Chris Murphy

- Kyle Davis (Town of Sunapee) presented an overview of the planned repairs to the town dock and planning time frame for potential dock/boat slip expansion. Docks repairs should be completed before Summer 2025 (estimated cost \$35,000-\$40,000); for now, this is intended to be a shorter-term solution adding maybe 2 years of life to the docks. The larger (potential) plan is a re-design/expansion of the dock system. Kyle will be looking for input from us and others to help guide the design firm with goals/objectives. Looking to further develop our opinion within the next two meetings so we can offer input to Kyle by April 2025. Design firm will begin this process in the Spring.
- Kyle also educated us on the official one-way River St plan. It will run one-way from its intersection with Maple St to High St. Eliminating a travel lane will enable the town to strip +/-15 new parking spaces along River St. Boat trailers parked in the High St lot will have to circle back down to Rte 11 and Main St to get back to the boat ramp; i.e. they will not be able to use River St.
- Discussed what we, as a committee, feel the docking needs are with respect to a dock expansion. Did not develop specific consensus except there seems to be leaning towards making the expansion a combination of slips to be leased out (to help pay for the capital improvement) and public boat parking (+/-2hrs parking, possibly for a charge) to help facilitate boater visits to the harbor. We all agree that the current (short-term) boat parking capacity is notably inadequate.
- We seemed to agree that the beach area to the right of the docks, while perhaps visually nice open space, does not serve a practical or recreational purpose. Is there a possibility a dock expansion could take place in this area? Discussed the current green space in front of the beach as part of an overall re-design, perhaps to accommodate a bandstand structure. Could this make sense if there is an expanded dock area right off the beach? Need to discuss with Recreation Committee as there may be other rights to contend with.
- Continued discussion re the harbor parking area to the right of the ramp. We agree this area could be put to better use. Need to drill deeper into this issue as we think about use of the adjacent land (behind the public restrooms). Loss of existing parking could likely be offset by adding parking spaces to the rear of the Gazebo parcel.
- Did not schedule the next meeting but it is generally planned for mid March.

Respectfully submitted, Chris Murphy