

**Sunapee Harbor Reconfiguration Committee**  
Meeting Notes – 1/8/2025 5:30 p.m. Abbott Library

**Attendance:** Steve McGrath, Diane Robbins, Jeff Savage, Chris Whitehouse, Tim Fenton, Sarah Scrivani, Michael Kelly, Chris Murphy

- Revisited the “purpose” of the committee. Agreed that we are simply part of the next-step thinking process to follow-up on the results of the Charette and the Sunapee Community Design report.
- Update from Diane Robbins re nearby NH lakes boat launches and parking. Take-aways are that many other lakes charge a fee for trailer parking and, possibly, launching. The State beach ramp in Newbury charges a parking fee. General social media commentary suggests Sunapee Harbor as a favorable launch site because of accessibility and its free. Committee discussed option of initiating a fee for non-Sunapee residents (without a sticker) for use of the harbor launch and/or parking a trailer on town-owned property. Stats indicate approx. +/-2800 annual launches at the harbor ramp, +/-1300 launches at the state beach, and +/-1300 launches at Georges Mills.
- Focussed on defining the “harbor area”. Committee agreed that for purposes of our thinking, the harbor area should include the land shown on the Harbor Reconfiguration Map shown in the Charette report in addition to extending further down Main Street to the Livery/Smoke House area. This is not intended to be a hard definition or have any legal meaning; it is only to set a workable parameter area for purposes of guiding the committee’s discussion.
- While the committee did not discuss in depth a previous idea to create/add parking area at the top of the gazebo parcel (where we estimate there is a +/-1/2 acre of unused land), we believe this is a potential option that will likely be re-visited as or when re-configuration plans gain more clarity.
- Committee discussed the town’s plan to consider adding slips near the main dock. Civil Works has been hired by the town to work on a design plan; once there is some clarity as to what the slip expansion might look like (maybe in Spring 2025), we agreed it would make sense to have someone from the town (likely Kyle Davis) attend a committee meeting to inform us so we can weigh in and/or consider it within the overall harbor reconfiguration discussion.
- As follow-up from our last meeting, an interim meeting has been scheduled on 1/16/25 when the Riverway and SHA will present (to all of the committees) their general thinking. Given that both of these organizations own significant land parcels in the harbor area, our committee (and other committees) feel it will be instructive to hear from them before getting too deep into any reconfiguration ideas.
- Began general discussion about the specific reconfiguration of the gazebo and town dock parcels – as delineated in the Charette report’s map. The committee’s consensus is that we favor the concept of creating a more appealing harbor front recreational area, to include possibly extending green space over the town dock parking lot. However, we all agreed that the specific design shown in the Charette’s report is probably not workable. It creates difficult vehicle travel patterns and, more specifically, does not properly address boat launching traffic. Additional comments were made regarding the poor (and often unsafe) pedestrian access (across the bridge) across from Fentons/Historical museum properties.
- Scheduled next meeting for Feb 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:30p.

Respectfully submitted, Chris Murphy