



CITY OF GLOUCESTER  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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## Harbormaster's Office Building Committee Listening Session

**September 19, 2018**

**Present:**

Jill Cahill, Director, Community Development

TJ Ciarametaro, Harbormaster

Mike Hale, Director of Public Works

Tony Gross, Waterways Board Chair

Joe Caruso, Member At-Large

John Ellis, Member At-Large

Ken Lento, Ex-Officio

**Absent:**

Bill Sanborn, Building Inspector

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Opening remarks by Jill Cahill:

The purpose of this project is to:

- Improve Harbormaster operations with support and expansion space to increase their effectiveness in performing public safety functions
- Support and increase visiting boater access to Gloucester Harbor with enhanced landside support facilities
- Provide an office space to collocate Shellfish Department and Discover Gloucester
- Provide a meeting room that can also be used for community meetings space and public restrooms
- As well as putting into action recommendations from the **2014 Harbor Plan** –
  - Promote public access on waterfront in ways that do not interfere with industrial uses as to create a more appealing environment for investment and to ensure the active use of the water's edge around the harbor
  - Promote change that will benefit the downtown and other areas of the city
  - Provide infrastructure and navigation improvements
  - Strengthen the viability of the port

Work done thus far:

- **2017 Feasibility study** - analysis of 6 sites (available on Harbormaster page of City website), presented at the Waterways Board
- Study suggested 19 Harbor Loop as optimal site
- Funding – City Council has approved \$1.6 mil bond
  - **City is applying for \$1 mil from Seaport Economic Council and researching other potential funding streams**

#### Timeline

- Currently **early in the planning and design phase**, talking about programming for the building which is why we are here tonight
- Goal is to begin construction in October 2019

#### Current Building

- No ADA accessibility
- No visiting boater facilities – have seen a 140% increase in visiting boaters in last 2 years

#### Future possibilities

- Harbormaster’s Office and Support Space
- Community Meeting Space
- Office space for Discover Gloucester and City Departments
- Visiting Boater Center - rest rooms and showers
- Public Restrooms
- Handicapped Accessible Facility

#### Public input opportunity tonight -

- Issues and opportunities of the current Harbormaster facility
  - Issues and opportunities of the future building program elements
  - The Building Committee will discuss the points brought up in this meeting at our next committee meeting
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#### **Public Comment:**

Elizabeth Carey, Executive Director - Discover Gloucester

Fortunate to have office at Harbor Loop- many visitors arriving by boat- it’s incredible.

Our job is to bring visitors to this city- and to brand it as a boater’s destination, this center will allow for increased visitors and visitors bring money into our economy.

Tobin Dominick

Exciting to hear that there is progress on this project, in a central location, we need to maximize boater’s opportunities, by extending dockage and visitor friendly services, this is super important for the city. Building needs to be super functional.

This is a win/win for the city- consider that this venue could also host events at the new facility? This should be something to be incorporated in the plan.

Val Gilman- W-4 Councilor and boater.

Love the feeling and scope of project- 3 things to consider:

- 1- In addition to visiting boaters, we need resident tie-ups as well, please consider local boaters too; there are only two areas currently for us to tie up. We are equally important and we are also coming into the area and spending money. We like to be able to tie up and shop and visit the restaurants.
- 2- Community boating advocate. Watching the schools race was an enjoyable experience. To be able to step on the dock and be close was perfect.
- 3- Keep in mind what you need to be successful. All you have done is terrific; please remember your needs as well.

Karen Tibetts

Wonderful investments for Gloucester's future, my previous job was to bring transient boaters to this city, now I am one.

Visitors spend money in every avenue of the city; a huge amount comes in with boaters, in many areas. I support it 100%.

Patti Page

I have followed this project since its inception 6 years ago.

Asking for the possibility of expansion to community boating, it could be a dual purpose facility, running April to November.

A feasibility study was not done regarding visitor boating, regarding the economics.

Community boating brings value in and money as well.

Location, this is the only city controlled public access to the water.

Community boating does not predicate people owning boats. I hope there is a way we can amend the process to include this.

Cape Ann Boating is a 501C3.

Ken Hecht – W-2 Councilor

I am the Ward 2 Councilor and this is in my ward

This is exciting! More bricks in the wall.

I am working on a plan/vision from Middle Street, to Main Street to Harbor Loop, to St Peters Square- there are a lot of parts: zoning, art, history, lobsterman- 30 prongs on this fork we are trying to bring together as part of this plan.

I am excited about this as I want this to be the best elements of Gloucester.

In terms of art work and graphics and it must exude Gloucester-

I want people to say – showers are great, people are great, but Gloucester is the best.

Working on a murals project- we are studying them around the country, not just locally.

We want it to be a Gloucester project-

Guess who has a great couple of walls? We can have nautical artwork on the walls that tie into the plan/vision from Middle St to Main St to the watershed area. I support this project.

Deacon Banks

One of the visions I have is that not only does this project attract visitors, but I want these visitors to come here and work on their boats- I can tell you that as an international sailor- Gloucester has the

reputation – there is no better place in the world to work on your boat- Gloucester has all that- ready to go!

Cate Banks

I agree with what a lot of people have said.

The concept of having a facility has been on the table for 25 years.

When we starting having a civilian harbormaster this was the plan back then.

Back to what Deacon said- we were in Beacon and a German couple came in

They needed to put their boat on the hard and live in it, something all boaters do.

There are no showers at Roses, no showers or toilet really.

To have a facility here would be awesome, we are local boaters, we see lots of visiting boaters as does the harbormaster, I am in favor of this, thank you

Frank Caggiano

I have vacationed here for the summer for close to 20 years with my family

First let me compliment your awareness for safety- my kids grew up in the river- we have a home on the river, safety is a very important aspect of this project, this will benefit both the transient and the local boater as well.

It also gives us the ability going forward to expand the office as more people vacation and move here we need to recognize the need for you to expand. This will give you that ability.

Patti Page

You mentioned public bathrooms. There are four in this building

Two at Maritime Gloucester, and two at Fitz Henry Lane's, to add two more might seem redundant, you might look at that.

Jill Cahill

Wanted to let everyone know that the Feasibility study is online, our Building Committee minutes are also online.

Our meetings are public and you are welcome to attend, they are held at the Harbormaster's office, first floor conference room.

TJ Ciarametaro

Thank you all for showing up- it is important for our city, our community, our recreational boaters, our commercial boaters, and our visitors.

Accommodating citizens is a big part of this, I am a huge supporter of this, its' been an incredible amount of work to get this far.

This is a long time coming, I envisioned this when I started this position, I am excited to see this through. Everyone you see up here has done a tremendous amount of work. We are the oldest seaport in the country; I am excited for people to stop in Gloucester instead of passing us by.

Jill Cahill

Final comment, our building committee is on the website, you can keep up with us by visiting Gloucester's webpage. Thank you all for coming.