

Baileys Harbor Downtown Group Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: Saturday, April 16, 2016

Members Present: Francha Barnard, Jean Davison, Mariah Goode, Pam Goode, Terry Goode, Mary Horton, Lori & Mike Kemmler (garden group)

The group took a walk through downtown Baileys Harbor at this meeting. A summary of the locations visited follows.

Town parking lot (next to fire station)

- Car and boat trailer parking was discussed. On a typical day, up to 10 trailers use the Brann Park area and this parking lot. There is a need for easier pull-through parking, which may necessitate redrawing lines and making changes to the median in the parking lot which separates car parking from boat trailer parking. This topic will need to be discussed further with appropriate members of the Baileys Harbor Town Board to see if changes are possible.

Home on corner of Highway 57 (next to fire department) This home may be up for sale soon and the town board has the right of first refusal on the property. There has been some discussion about the potential use of this property, including moving the home to another location, razing the home and building a new administrative building for the town, thereby freeing up the town hall completely to serve as a community center.

Lake View Park (small public access park)

Two wooden memorial benches are at the end of the lane for lake viewing. The Ridges osprey nest is also visible from this location. The following changes would make the park more noticeable and appealing to visitors:

1. Shorten the drive up lane to where the willow tree is located on the east side of the road and provide parking perpendicular to the split-rail fence that could be designated by railroad ties.
2. Install a bike rack.
3. Put in a new sign listing the location as Lake View Park.
4. Put in a dog walking area sign and a bag dispenser and trash can.
5. Install arch-like structures and a wood chip path leading to the waterfront.
6. Explore the possibility of using the green space along the split-rail fencing as a garden area.
7. Explore this location as a potential “way-finding“ site that directs visitors to locations around town.

Baileys Harbor Marina building – No specific recommendations were made for this building. It is continuing to experience a leaky roof despite repeated attempts to correct the problem. The group suggested following up with the town marina committee for updated information and future plans.

Public Water View Park (at bottom of Bluff Road by Yum Yum Tree)

Two wooden memorial benches are presently located by the lake. The following changes would make the park more noticeable and appealing to visitors:

1. Put in a new sign listing the location as Bluff Road Park. (Name change needed?)
2. Put in a dog walking area sign and a bag dispenser and trash can.
3. Install arch-like structures close to the green space.
4. Install a bike rack.

Southern Water View Park (along Highway 57 by guardrail)

The potential exists for making this area an enjoyable water view park and picnic area. The following ideas were discussed.

1. The water's edge/shoreline needs to be cleaned up following the county regulations regarding lakeside properties. Members of the Baileys Harbor Town Board will be asked for approval in organizing this clean-up initiative.
2. There may be room for 2 additional street-side parking spaces on east side of Highway 57.
3. The park needs a name. Once the name is decided upon, a sign will need to be installed along the road – no specific location was determined.
4. Stairs or a pea gravel path leading from the road to the more level terrain is needed.
5. Install arch-like structures at the entrance area.
6. Install a bike rack.
7. Put in a dog walking area sign and a bag dispenser and trash cans.
8. Place benches and picnic tables in the area.
9. The moderately steep bank that leads to the water's edge should be accessed by a stairway.
10. A split-rail fence or some type of fencing should be installed at top of bank for safety.

Brann Park

The site was viewed and discussed in terms of its current usage as overflow boat trailer parking and potential festival site. Consistency in how the space is used is recommended, so visitors know that regardless of which town event is occurring, they will know whether it is used as a site for festival events or overflow parking.

Additional Discussion Items

- It was discussed that the Little Free Libraries might be a welcome addition to each of the water access parks.
- Community stores and restaurants could have postcards available that list locations of the water access areas in town as part of a visitor information card rack.
- The director of The Clearing was contacted regarding potential collaboration between The Clearing's forge program and the Baileys Harbor community in the design of arch type structures for our water access parks. The report was promising and there was definite interest in possibly having the structures designed and built as part of a forge class at the Clearing.
- Two sources of potential project funding through grants were briefly discussed. The Gannett Foundation was contacted regarding community action grants. Further discussion with the foundation is forthcoming. The Home Depot Foundation has a Community Impact Grant available for up to \$5000 for registered nonprofit organizations. The award includes Home Depot products for use in the purchase of construction tools and supplies.

Next Steps

The Downtown group will meet again on **Saturday, May 14th, at 9:00 A.M. in the Baileys Harbor Town Hall to discuss:**

- updates regarding action steps for the water access parks.
- the organization of a clean up day for the water access park on the southern edge of town.