

Annual Report of the Schoodic Scenic Byway Corridor Management Committee

The Corridor Management Committee of Schoodic National Scenic Byway is happy to report on our progress in 2007 and the start of 2008.

Transportation Improvements

- ♦ Major road improvements are nearly complete on Route 1 in Sullivan.
- ♦ Winter Harbor village are well underway. Byway funds are helping to pay for new sidewalks and informational signage.
- ♦ Improvements are underway along Route 186 between Winter Harbor and Birch Harbor. Byway funds will not pay for these improvements, but have given residents in Gouldsboro and Winter Harbor a greater opportunity to participate in discussing context sensitive solutions. Paved shoulders will significantly improve safety for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.
- ♦ The free Schoodic Point Shuttle bus continued to operate during the summer of 2007 with increasing ridership.

Visitor Facilities

- ♦ The Taunton Bay gateway facility in Hancock is moving ahead. In 2008 are planning to add trails, interpretive panels, stone benches, a privy and information kiosk.
- ♦ Scenic Byway turnouts at Dunbar's store and Long Cove in Sullivan are nearing completion. These turnouts will provide visitors with benches, great vistas and information about our region's history, natural resources and recreation.
- ♦ We are pursuing a new concept for a visitor facility in Prospect Harbor and will engage the public in a discussion about local history, recreation and natural resources to highlight in 2008. We hope that this concept will compliment the new school and summer shuttle service on the Schoodic peninsula.
- ♦ Scenic Byway funds will be used to build install new Acadia National Park signs on Route 1 and Route 186 this year.

Funding for Future Improvements

- ♦ We have just submitted new grant proposals to the Federal Highway Administration to continue our planning efforts and to create a visitor turnout in Prospect Harbor. We are also pursuing private foundation support to create hiking trails connecting the Schoodic area with the public reserve lands including Schoodic Mountain, Black Mountain and Tunk Mountain.

Public Participation

- ♦ The Schoodic Byway sponsored our second Earth Day Roadside Cleanups in 2007 engaging Summer High School Students and other volunteers.
- ♦ The Schoodic Byway was represented at the National Scenic Byways Conference in Baltimore, the Governor's Conference on Tourism in Bangor and the State Scenic Byway Conference in Rangeley.
- ♦ We have created a new website www.downeastexplorer.org that highlights many visitor opportunities in the region. This geo-tourism initiative celebrates local culture and environment. We will be adding local voices, places to visit and more to this site in 2008.

We would like to thank all who have supported byway planning efforts, including members of the select boards, planning boards, Town offices, historical societies, Chamber of Commerce and other local organizations. We would also like to thank the Hancock County Planning Commission, the Maine Department of Transportation and Acadia National Park for their technical and financial support. You can learn about the byway at www.schoodicbyway.org or by calling Jim Fisher, Hancock County Planning Commission at 667-7131. Residents in Hancock, Sullivan, Gouldsboro and Winter Harbor are always welcome to attend byway meetings.

Respectfully Submitted,



Barbara Shanahan, Chairperson