

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 2009 and the start of 2010.

Transportation Improvements

- ♦ Improvements on Route 186 between South Gouldsboro and Birch Harbor were completed in 2009 including drainage, shoulders and surface improvements. More work is planned for Route 186 in 2010.
- ♦ The 84 mile Down East Sunrise Trail from Ellsworth to Ayers Junction in Pembroke opened for winter use. The trail passes just north of Route 1 in Sullivan and Gouldsboro. Year round use begins as construction is completed in 2010. Information about this new recreational asset is available at www.sunrisetrail.org.
- ♦ The Schoodic Point Shuttle bus continued to operate during the summer. Improvements in Prospect Harbor will provide riders with a place to wait for the bus.

Visitor Facilities

- ♦ The scenic turnouts at Taunton Bay in Hancock, Frenchman Bay and Long Cove in Sullivan have become popular destinations along Route 1. The Taunton Bay Gateway will soon have a kiosk and paths.
- ♦ Winter Harbor's village area revitalization was completed in 2009.
- ♦ New interpretive panels were installed in 2009 at the Tidal Falls facility in Hancock and at two locations in Winter Harbor.
- ♦ Efforts continued for creating a gateway facility in Prospect Harbor. Engineering designs are nearing completion. A granite sculpture was carved in 2009 and will be located at this gateway area.
- ♦ We opened views along the byway. Significant improvements were made at the Frenchman Bay overlook, the scenic view across from Young's Market and in Wonsqueak next to the park exit.

Funding for Future Improvements

- ♦ We received a grant of \$44,000 from the Federal Highway Administration to support improvements of the recently acquired Gordon's Wharf facility on Taunton Bay in Sullivan.
- ♦ We are submitting new grant proposals to the Federal Highway Administration to support parking and visitor facilities in Prospect Harbor and additional improvements for Gordon's Wharf.

Public Participation

- ♦ Schoodic Byway participated in a statewide byway meeting held at the University of Maine in Orono. We are working with byways statewide to celebrate local businesses, natural resources and history.
- ♦ We produced small-size interpretive panels as part of our geo-tourism initiative. Samples are posted to www.downeastexplorer.org. The geo-tourism initiative celebrates local culture and environment.
- ♦ A Scenic Assessment of Downeast Maine was completed in 2010. Numerous scenic locations along the byway are cataloged and viewable online at www.hcpcme.org/environment/view.
- ♦ Reductions in state matching funds for byway grants have placed new importance on municipal and other contributions to continue improvements along the byway. Thanks to all that have given this support.

We thank the select boards, planning boards, staff, historical societies, Chamber of Commerce and other organizations for their support. We also thank the Hancock County Planning Commission, the Maine Department of Transportation and Acadia National Park for their technical and financial support.

The Schoodic National Scenic Byway Corridor Committee is a collaboration of Hancock, Sullivan, Gouldsboro, Winter Harbor and Acadia National Park to protect and promote this scenic corridor. Area residents are always welcome to attend byway meetings. You can learn more at www.schoodicbyway.org or by calling Jim Fisher, Hancock County Planning Commission at 667-7131.

Respectfully Submitted,



Barbara Shanahan, Chairperson