

2012-2013 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 2012 and the start of 2013.

Transportation Improvements

- ♦ MaineDOT completed improvements to Route 186 in West Gouldsboro. Travel lane improvements and paved shoulders have made a big difference for travelers.
- ♦ The Schoodic Point Shuttle bus continued to operate during the summer. Improvements in Prospect Harbor will provide riders with an improved place to wait for the bus.

Visitor Facilities

- ♦ Scenic turnouts at Taunton Bay in Hancock, Frenchman Bay and Long Cove in Sullivan and the flag pole in Winter Harbor continue to be popular destinations along Route 1.
- ♦ The Tidal Falls Center, operated by Frenchman Bay Conservancy, is planning for a major redesign of their facility. The Schoodic Byway will collaborate with additional interpretive signage at this site.
- ♦ A building at Gordon's Wharf in Sullivan has a new deck and improved entrance road. Engineering has been completed for further road improvements, a parking area and an ADA accessible ramp to the meeting room. The Friends of Taunton Bay and Maine Coast Heritage Trust are providing children's educational programs, a big benefit for local school groups and byway visitors.
- ♦ The Prospect Harbor gateway improvements are nearly complete. The veteran's memorial, byway interpretation, granite sculpture and more are installed.
- ♦ New visitor information signs are ready to install along the byway that highlight things to do on the byway and promote locally grown, locally fished and locally made products.

Funding for Future Improvements

- ♦ Planning is progressing for new interpretive signs for existing and new byway venues.
- ♦ The 2012 "Kids Quest" proposal has been funded. The Corridor Committee is planning an exciting series of kids educational venues along the byway featuring how tides work, historic trains, granite mining, native American lives, protecting the environment and lobstering for a living.
- ♦ The National Scenic Byway program has been downsized, but the Schoodic Byway has several projects in the works and will continue to look for new opportunities.

Public Participation

- ♦ The Schoodic Byway Brochure continues to promote natural, historic, cultural and recreational assets along the byway. The brochures are distributed through Maine Visitor Centers.
- ♦ Further reductions in national and state funds for byway programs places greater importance on municipal and other contributions to continue improvements along the byway. Thanks to all that have given support.

We thank the select boards, planning boards, staff, historical societies, Chamber of Commerce and other organizations for their support. We 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 schoodicbyway.org, or by calling the Hancock County Planning Commission at 667-7131.

Respectfully Submitted,



Barbara Shanahan, Chairperson