

2016 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 2016.

Visitor Facilities and Information

- ♦ An exciting new ‘Schoodic Outdoors’ brochure was designed and printed, promoting areas in the Byway region to walk, bike, and paddle.
- ♦ Completion of the interpretive panels, granite exhibit, and flagstone placement at Gordon’s Wharf in Sullivan. This wonderful exhibit welcomes visitors to the edge of Taunton’s Bay. Special thanks to Larry Johannesman, Obadiah Buell, and Gary Edwards for their efforts with this project.
- ♦ A wayfinding sign for the future bicycle-pedestrian hub in Winter Harbor village was designed and manufactured
- ♦ A sidewalk has been created between the restroom, Kid’s Quest train exhibit site, and the interpretive signs at the Taunton Bay Gateway.
- ♦ Interpretive signs for Winter Harbor-Camp Moore have been manufactured.
- ♦ An interpretive sign has been installed and parking area created for Sullivan-Summer Memorial Park.
- ♦ An interpretive sign for Long Cove has been designed and manufactured.
- ♦ An interpretive sign for the Dorcas Library site has been installed.
- ♦ An interpretive sign for Hancock-Tidal Falls has been installed.

Planning for Future Improvements and Projects

- ♦ The design of the Winter Harbor bike-ped hub is underway at MaineDOT, and construction is due to begin this summer.
- ♦ Website upgrades are being planned.
- ♦ The committee is undertaking a strategic planning effort to evaluate Byway progress, and plan for the future.

Funding

- ♦ A two-year, \$15,000 grant was received from the Betterment Fund for the Ped, Pedal, Paddle program in 2015. This program evolved into Schoodic Outdoors, and the funding supported the development of the new brochure.
- ♦ A \$1,000 grant from the Schoodic Community Fund was received for the printing and distribution of the Schoodic Outdoors brochure.
- ♦ A \$2,000 grant from the National Park Service’s Rivers, Trails, and Conservation program was received for the printing and distribution of the Schoodic Outdoors brochure.
- ♦ A grant for technical assistance was received from the National Park Service’s Rivers, Trails, and Conservation program, to be used in 2016. This grant has been renewed for an additional year.

Public Participation

- ♦ The Byway Committee hosted a Fall Van Tour for elected officials, funding agencies, and members of the press in October. The event offered a chance for networking and showing of our beautiful byway. It was met with an enthusiastic response, and we hope to replicate the van tour model for future events. Many thanks to Fred Michaud and John Kelley for securing the use of vans and serving as our drivers!
- ♦ The new Schoodic Outdoors brochure, and the existing Schoodic Byway Brochure promote outdoor activity and natural, historic, cultural and recreational assets along the byway. The brochures will continue to be distributed throughout the region, and the Byway Committee is exploring opportunities for wider distribution throughout the state.

Further reductions in national and state funds for byway programs place greater importance on municipal and other contributions to continue improvements along the byway. Many municipalities maintain sites on the Schoodic National Scenic Byway, and volunteers on the Byway Committee contributed nearly one hundred hours in 2016 to Byway planning and support. We thank all that have given support and participated. We are asking that the municipalities along the Schoodic National Scenic Byway consider contributing a modest amount to cover administration, fees and other miscellaneous annual costs. The recommended annual donation is \$250 per municipality. Donations from individuals and organizations that wish to support our initiatives are also welcome. Donations can be sent to our fiscal agent, Hancock County Planning Commission at 395 State Street, Ellsworth, 04605. Please make sure any money sent is clearly marked as a donation for the Schoodic National Scenic Byway Committee. We hope you'll agree that the benefits of our Byway far outweigh the minimal costs to individual towns.

We thank the select boards, planning boards, staff, historical societies, Chamber of Commerce, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Friends of Taunton Bay, Frenchman Bay Conservancy 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

Barbara Shanahan, Chairperson

