

Objective #1: Community Boathouse

Create a Community Boathouse and additional opportunities for water-oriented activities as the river cleanup moves towards completion.

Short Term Actions

- Establish a volunteer steering committee for the Community Boathouse. The steering committee will advise the City of New Bedford on the practical matters of designing, constructing, and operating a boathouse and associated rowing programs as well as fundraising and lobbying.
Lead Role.....New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC)
Estimated Cost.....N/A

- Engage an environmental consulting firm to assess the feasibility of establishing a community rowing program with a supporting facility along the Upper Acushnet. The study will assess existing conditions, determine actions needed to create a rowing course in an expeditious manner, and gather data on potential health hazards.
Lead Role.....NBEDC or New Bedford Harbor Development Commission (HDC)
Estimated Cost.....\$30,000

- Prepare a preliminary architectural concept for the Community Boathouse, launching ramp, and dock, for both project planning and publicity and fundraising purposes.
Lead Role.....NBEDC
Estimated Cost.....N/A (pro bono design by MIT Architecture students)

- Complete preliminary design for the dredging of the rowing course, turning basin, and area in front of the Community Boathouse.
Lead Role.....NBEDC and HDC
Estimated Cost..... \$25,000

- Coordinate with the developer of the Fairhaven Mills property and other adjacent landowners to ensure that sufficient acreage is provided for a boathouse and associated parking, as well as adequate access and provision for utility connections.
Lead Role.....NBEDC
Estimated Cost..... NA

- Apply to the Seaport Council for access to Harbor Trust Funds (set aside by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) during Superfund Cleanup) to fund infrastructure improvements associated with the rowing course. Also, through the steering committee, commence an aggressive fundraising process targeted at high net worth individuals residing in the South Coast area, on a permanent or seasonal basis. The campaign should also reach out to local businesses (specifically any new businesses located in the Fairhaven Mills redevelopment), private schools, colleges, and universities.

Lead Role.....NBEDC and HDC

Estimated Cost..... N/A (volunteer labor)

- Investigate potential collaboration with entities including the Mass Sports Partnership to provide funding for marketing and event planning.

Lead Role.....NBEDC

Estimated Cost.....N/A

- Commission a concept plan to investigate the feasibility of utilizing the City-owned Reliable Truss property as a public launch site for kayaks and canoes. The site should also be a northern anchor to the Riverwalk, with attractive open spaces, amenities such as picnic tables and restrooms, and adequate parking.

Lead Role.....Planning Department & Department of Public Infrastructure (DPI)

Estimated Cost..... \$50,000

- Secure funding to plan and redevelop the Reliable Truss site. To date, the City has received \$240,000 for site cleanup that must be spent by September 2009. The City has also received \$195,000 for the restoration of a half acre of salt marsh and a \$500,000 PARC grant. Construction of the park concept plan is estimated to be \$900,000.

Lead Role.....NBEDC

Estimated Cost..... \$900,000

- Schedule an initial invitational “soft launch” rowing event for Fall, 2009. The event will feature local college, high school, and rowing clubs and is intended to be a demonstration event that can also serve as preparation prior to teams entering in the Head of the Charles. The goal of this event is to introduce the public to see what rowing in the Upper Harbor could be like. The soft launch event will make use of temporary shoreside facilities.

Lead Role..... Community Boathouse Steering Committee

Estimated Cost.....N/A (volunteer labor, donated materials)

- Plan an invitational “hard launch” event with similar temporary logistics as the soft launch. The additional time to plan the event will allow for a more structured race format to be developed. This event will allow the public to witness what future regattas may offer in the future.
Lead Role..... Community Boathouse Steering Committee
Estimated Cost.....N/A (volunteer labor, donated materials)

Medium Term Actions

- Commission schematic-level architectural plans for the Community Boathouse. Take advantage of the possibility of pro bono or discounted design services through the Steering Committee, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and/or other connections.
Lead Role.....NBEDC and Community Boathouse Steering Committee
Estimated Cost.....\$40,000
- Assuming availability of funding and/or additional pro bono or discounted design services, continue to advance the Community Boathouse design through design development and into construction drawings.
Lead Role.....NBEDC and Community Boathouse Steering Committee
Estimated Cost..... \$40,000
- Again assuming a successful fundraising process, secure needed permits and commence construction of the Community Boathouse and associated site improvements. Phase the project as necessary to conform to current and anticipated funding availability. For example, a floating ramp may not be necessary at first.
Lead Role.....NBEDC and Community Boathouse Steering Committee
Estimated Cost.....\$800,000
- Coinciding with the opening of the Community Boathouse, work with the Steering Committee and volunteers to kick off a full program of classes and lessons for children and adults.
Lead Role.....Community Boathouse Steering Committee
Estimated Cost..... TBD

Long Term Actions

- Through continued fundraising, seek to re-establish the Community Boathouse a self-sufficient non-profit entity, not dependent on the City for operating funds. The Community Boathouse will continue to evolve, offering a broader range of programs to a

wider audience and potentially employing a full-time boathouse manager.

Lead Role..... Community Boathouse Steering Committee

Estimated Cost..... N/A