The Planning Process

The Town of Cohasset is conducting a public process to plan for the future of its harbor. This process will look at the future of the land and water in the harbor in terms of commercial, recreational, and environmental uses and connections to the rest of Cohasset, including the downtown. The Seaport Economic Council has provided a grant to support this process.

Participants at the second public workshop, on December 17, will help refine the vision, goals, and future actions for the harbor area based on the research and analysis completed to date.

The workshop will address five initial themes:

• Balance between Recreation and Commercial Needs
• Impact of Sea Level Rise
• Environment of the Harbor
• Infrastructure
• Harbor Management and Governance

The Harbor Committee has selected a consultant team, led by Harriman and including GEI Consulting and FXM Associates, to assist with the collection and analysis of data, public engagement, and the preparation of the final reports. The process will be completed in Fall 2019.

Questions? Please email Peter Matchak, Town Planner: PMatchak@cohassetma.org

Municipal Harbor Plans

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts regulates development along waterways and filled tidelands. These regulations derive from Chapter 91 of the Massachusetts General Laws, also known as the Massachusetts Public Waterfront Act.

Additional information can be found here: https://www.mass.gov/guides/chapter-91-the-massachusetts-public-waterfront-act

A Municipal Harbor Plan allows a town to vary certain requirements of Chapter 91 to implement the community’s goals. The planning process requires a public process, led by the Town, to educate the community about the harbor plan and solicit input about opportunities, constraints, and recommendations. The draft plan must be approved by the Board of Selectmen and the Commonwealth’s Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA).

Additional information can be found here: https://www.mass.gov/service-details/czm-port-and-harbor-planning-program-municipal-harbor-plans