Positive developments for Lynn’s waterfront

By Marina Fix, ferry prep work encouraging signs

There’s general consensus that Lynn’s new MBTA Master Plan, with its vision of a beachside, landscaped open space and a mix of new commercial and residential development, will take years, likely decades, to realize. But there are some positive signs that suggest we’re closer to that goal.

Relief for the desperately needed repair of best ships at the city-owned Seaport Marina was on the horizon in November after the city leased a $500,000 state grant which Lynn Community Development Director James March says should cover 90 percent of the project’s cost.

The grant is a significant victory for Mayor Mazzaro, whose administration, as well as the city’s legislative delegation, even though city officials including Kenney and March have serious reservations about the city’s continued operation of the 29-year-old marina.

“The question is one of how quickly we can get this done and whether we can do it all in one go and have the city lease the money it needs to do it,” March commented recently to The Item, adding with no small amount of grimness that despite the grant, “it’s a challenge to make it a profitable operation, and we just have to accept that.”

Either way, it’s clear the marina has been neglected, and it’s especially welcome news for locals who feel that four of the damaged boats will be cleared within the next year. And while the city is making efforts to ensure the marina does not again fall into disrepair, it has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for a grant to build a breakwater to prevent it from development into future storms.

Meanwhile, as the Item reported on Monday, city officials are making a serious effort to plan, to establish a Lynn-Boston commuter ferry service, and to stretch the Lynn Economic Development and Industrial Corp. to its limits, with a request for additional $1.2 million in grants from the Seaport Authority Council to fund a new ferry terminal.

Kenney also announced this week that Lynn has been invited to participate in the MassPoseidon Readiness Program, a $20 million initiative to support development of new marine technology and products.

As with all such projects, only time will tell if the investment is worth it, but for now, it’s a positive sign for the future of Lynn’s waterfront.

Natural gas units ideal for Salem Harbor Station

By Mike Wallace

With development of new gas-powered generation,｀low boilers’ are the future

As the last of the existing structures (buildings and stacks) and opening up some 30-40 acres of development to development approval with Salem’s port designation.

Salem Harbor has been a working industrial/commercial zone — starting with Salem and global trade and more recently as a major cruise terminal for Viking Line passengers. Continuously changing through the years, the existing infrastructure of transmission lines and buildings make it difficult for Salem Harbor to be developed any further.

However, with the opening of new units in the next 20 years or so, Salem Harbor could become a prime location for new businesses and industries. Whether enforcement of new rules and regulations and the need to clean up the area will be enough to develop the site, we will only know when the new plans are approved. As our state and country continue to change and develop, Salem Harbor could become an economic hub for the region.

With the option of selling, a plan could be approved in the years to come and new businesses and industries could be attracted to the area.

Salem, Mass, is state of New Hampshire

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