

Statement of purpose of The Livery project

The Non-profit Organization

Sunapee Heritage Alliance is a 501-c-3 non-profit corporation engaged in preservation and revitalization efforts related to historic properties and cultural resources in Sunapee.

The Board of Directors will work to ensure that historically significant sites and properties throughout the town are recognized. They will support efforts to find sustainable uses for those properties so they remain a vital part of our scenic and cultural landscape.

They are currently engaged in efforts to save and repurpose a large multi- floor building in Sunapee Harbor called The Livery in Sunapee Harbor.

The Building

The Town of Sunapee has sold the historic building that was originally the Livery Stable for the Harbor House Hotel during the steamboat era. This is the last surviving large scale commercial building in Sunapee from that time. Through the years, the building had served the town in a variety of ways, most notably as our early Fire Station and our Town Hall for many years. But in the late 90s – with no uses left except for the Thrift Shop, the building fell into disrepair and there was talk of tearing it down. The town did not want to maintain it and its condition was worsening. So a town committee was formed to try and come up with a plan to save the

Livery. That early committee worked tirelessly for recognition – they secured a Historic designation from the State and The New Hampshire Preservation Alliance put the building on their “Seven to Save” list in 2006. In 2015, the committee decided to form a non-profit organization to continue their work, and Sunapee Heritage Alliance, a non-profit focused on preserving architectural heritage was created. The first step was to study possible uses for the building and then transfer ownership from the town. The buyer was the Sunapee Harbor Riverway Corporation. They have made the purchase with the understanding that plans will be developed to renovate and repurpose the building under the guidance of Sunapee Heritage Alliance. The deed requires that historic elements be maintained and also mandates that the final plan include access by the townspeople of Sunapee. The Riverway has leased the building to Sunapee Heritage Alliance with the expectation that they will incorporate those requirements as a vision unfolds. The SHA board is approaching the planning process for the Livery with all options for its future open for discussion and exploration.

The neighborhood

The community forum (“Sunapee 2020”) held in 2012 gathered townspeople together to see what change they would like to see. Responses echoed a similar refrain from all factions in town –*now is the time to establish year round activity in Sunapee Harbor!* We want a coffee shop, a year round restaurant and a

place to gather all year long!

Our town master plans and many recent planning initiatives guide us toward the concept that a blend of private enterprise mixed with community non-profit activities is the key to a successful revitalization of Sunapee Harbor.

How we'll reach our goals

Sunapee Heritage Alliance will initially work to solicit donations to cover the carrying costs and maintenance of the Livery in Sunapee Harbor. We will encourage a broad spectrum of rental uses and promote a summer live performance series. Once a plan for long term use is finalized, we will launch a campaign for capital costs to repair the foundation and hopefully restore the building for year round use.

The Vision

Once completely restored, the project would be self sustaining and could serve as a catalyst for the startup of other year round businesses both on Riverway property and neighboring private parcels. Whatever enterprise materializes, it will be a supporting partner with the community and its presence will complement the quarter of a century of stewardship demonstrated by Sunapee Harbor Riverway.

We will need your help!

This is an opportunity for anyone who values the history and future of Sunapee to offer their ideas for a successful repurposing of the Livery in Sunapee Harbor !

Want to know more?

Contact
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We look forward to bringing as many voices to the table as we can! Together we can use our historic buildings to bring pride to our community along with positive change.

Sunapee Heritage Alliance is a 501 c 3 charitable corporation.