



Friends of the Waterfront's 34th Annual Meeting to Feature Guest Speaker Sam Bradner of Peregrine Partners Discussing Development Plans for the Yachting Center Property, Sayers, Scotts and Commercial Wharves and More

NEWPORT, RI, October 3, 2016 – Join Friends of the Waterfront (FOW) for its Annual Meeting on Thursday, October 13 at the Newport Public Library at 6:00 pm. Along with a review of the year, special guest speaker Sam Bradner, a principal of Peregrine Partners LLC will discuss his company's plans for the future of the four-acre site in the heart of downtown Newport. Peregrine bought the Newport Yachting Center site, home to the Mooring and Smokehouse Restaurants, a marina, various parking lots and The Bohlin, a wedding and special events venue, in 2014. The property includes public rights-of-way on Scotts, Commercial and Sayers wharves.

Newport Harbor Corp, the site's previous owners held concerts, comedy shows, October Fest and other festivals at the site, events that led neighbors living nearby to vehemently complain over noise violations. Beyond pleasing neighbors and the local community, any new plans for the site requires approval from local and state reviewers Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) and the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) as well as Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) since the area lies in a flood zone.

Peregrine's Sam Bradner is a seasoned executive in land-use planning and development in both the public and private sector. He's been a partner in Peregrine since 2009. Previously he worked in the Maryland Governor's office of Smart Growth. He is a URI graduate, a trustee of the Providence Foundation and on the GrowSmart RI Board of Directors.

Friends of the Waterfront's is an all-volunteer, grass roots based non-profit, founded in 1982, with a mission to protect and preserve continued public access to the waterfront. Composed of local citizens, FOW has acted as a watchdog over the area from the Newport Bridge to King Park and beyond to support the uniqueness of the waterfront and to insure public access is never taken away. Over the years FOW has fought to have fences removed from Scott's Wharf, to keeping Ann Street Pier and the Armory Beach public, was instrumental in creating the Newport Harbor Walk, in keeping Rose Island a bird life retreat and a historic preservation site, in creating the iconic Dinghy Planter Project in association with URI Master Gardeners and in planning for the future of the waterfront with rising tides and climate challenges.

FOW's Annual Meeting is open to the public. Membership applications will be available. Individual yearly membership is still only \$5, the same price it was when FOW was founded. Refreshments will be served.

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