



- In Spring 2013, around the start of the Healthy Maine Streets project, we were approached by College of the Atlantic students who wanted to discuss the "Bar Harbor on Tap" campaign. This was a campaign developed to increase awareness about the problems with bottled water, to convince local businesses to stop selling it, and to increase the use of reusable water bottles.
- The group did not end up speaking at a Wellness Committee meeting, but some students did meet with Healthy Acadia staff to discuss the project.
- I relayed the project idea to the Wellness Committee. The Committee did not feel that it was appropriate to get involved in the economics of asking businesses to stop selling water, but they did embrace the idea of purchasing water bottle refill stations for the downtown area, to make free drinking water publicly available to community members and tourists. We felt that promoting drinking water fit well within the Nutrition section of our community work plan, and that the fountains were a very sustainable item that would benefit the community for years after the Healthy Maine Streets project had ended. The Committee also loved the idea of reducing plastic bottle waste (though that in itself did not fit within the HMS criteria. You may recall that we originally planned to purchase and sell Hub of Bar Harbor water bottles as part of this project, but then decided that was not the most effective use of seed money).

i.e.: 4 million visitors a year to Acadia Nat'l Park creates a lot trash and a lot of thirsty people

Where did you decide the install them and who did you consult with for location of them?

- I consulted with the Town of Bar Harbor's Public Works Director to discuss possible locations and the logistics of installation. There are only 3 public, outdoor water fountains in downtown Bar Harbor. We were essentially restricted to those locations since cost would have been prohibitive to install plumbing for a fountain in a completely new location. Two of the existing fountains were located outside "comfort stations" (ie restrooms) that were slated for renovation this past year. One of those fountains was located at the town ball fields, where a number of large events are held (e.g. 4th of July festival), as well as regular youth and adult athletic events for the year-round community. This was the logical first choice, to provide something truly valuable that would serve the greatest number of people. Town employees installed the new water bottle filler at no cost to us this summer, as part of their scheduled renovations.

How much did they cost?

- Approximately \$2,000 (+/1 due to shipping charges). We were only able to purchase one with our original community work plan budget. However, due to various in-kind services that were provided to support our work-plan, as well as some outside donations, we ended up with enough extra "seed money" that we were able to purchase a 2nd fountain. The fountain has been purchased (prior to Sept 29th deadline), and will again be installed through in-kind time from Town employees. This will be installed at the Town Pier comfort station, which is still scheduled for renovation (fortunately for us, they did not complete...or start...those renovations yet!).

How will maintenance work in the winter or will they be shut off?

- They will be shut off in the winter.

Anything else to add??

- We are so grateful for the support of the Public Works Director and employees, who provided in-kind installation of the fountains. We were also incredibly fortunate that the timing coincided with renovations to existing water fountains and bathroom facilities. Had this not been the case, the project probably would not have been feasible.