

Jackson's Landing Committee

Meeting Notice and Agenda November 22, 2005 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers, Town Hall

Introductions

Present: Nick Isaac, Scott Hovey, Michael Hoffman, Judith Spangler, Neil Niman, Denny Byrne, Robbie Woodburn, Mike Lynch, Dwight Baldwin and John Parry

Committee Members Contact Information

Neil Neiman (Neil@orbit.unh.edu)

Robbi Woodburn (robwoodburn@comcast.net)

Mike Lynch (mlynch@ci.durham.nh.us)

Denny Byrne (dmbyrne@cisunix.unh.edu)

Mike Hoffman (mhoffman33@comcast.net)

Laurie Potter (lpotter@cadmusgroup.com)

Nick Isaac (nick-isaak@comcast.net)

Scott Hovey (hovey@iname.com)

Judith Spang (Judith@kestrelnet.net)

Chairs

John Parry (parry@fs.fed.us)

Dwight Baldwin (bdbaldwin@earthlink.net)

Recent history with respect to our meeting tonight

Judith Spang gave a brief summary history of how this effort has evolved. A group was worked this past fall to develop a grant proposal to submit to DES. The intent was to get funding to hire a firm to develop a survey and site map and help develop a plan for the property. The purpose was to address erosion control and make improvements to the property to increase recreational opportunities. Some in the town felt the idea needed more input from the public, town departments and committees and asked that the proposal be delayed until next year. Council suggested that a formal committee be formed to do that. DES had expressed support for a proposal.

Goals (Draft) of the Committee

Gather public and professional input on potential improvements at Jackson's landing that will optimize recreation, aesthetics and community development benefits, while protecting natural resources in the area.

Develop a conceptual plan that would recommend needed improvements and define steps to be taken to implement these improvements, including identifying funding sources.

House keeping Items

Chairing of meetings and taking of minutes?

Dwight and John will alternate

Are we missing any key group that should be involved?

It was reported that the library may not pursue a building site at JL so it was felt they do not need to be represented on this committee.

There was some discussion on adding additional members. We want all major use groups to be represented. Concern was raised that no one group be over represented. At the same time, it would be useful if we can include individuals with applicable professional skills. Suggestions included someone from ORYA, Pete Cathy (UNH rowing), Mike Siebert (ZBA).

How often should we meet?

About once per month. Next meeting will be Dec. 19, 4:00 – 5:30, Town Hall

Time frame under which we are working

Have a topographic survey done and maps available by January.

Have a public input session by February.

Firm up report for input by March.

Present report to council by July.

DES preproposal is due on Oct.

Other steps?

Funds available for the Committee?

There maybe some town money available later.

Parks Comm. has only a small budget of \$ 3,500 (earmarked for other projects). In addition there is \$5,000 set aside to plan for a skate board park.

Trustees have some funds available that may apply.

There may be local interest in funding this from businesses and other non-profits in the area.

Grants

We need to keep in communication with DES so they know of our interest and we get their input. Natalie Landrie is a contact there.

Funds to do a survey may be reimbursable if a grant is later awarded for a project. This depends on the grant.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (National Park Service) has been used in the past for park projects, but national budget has been small in recent years.

Others to consider are Bureau of Trails Grant Program, and the Historic Preservation Grant (there is a tomb on site)

Brainstorming of ideas/goals

We need to have a professional topographic survey done on property to determine boundaries and topography. This could cost in the range of \$6,000 - \$7,000.

We can use the towns GIS system and staff to do some basic mapping; however, this is not accurate on topography.

Improvements should compliment other current and potential uses.

Look at feasibility of skateboard park across from ice rink.

The property extends across the ravine on the east side. A bridge or boardwalk across this could open up this area. Create a walking area across ravine.

Consider moving boathouse to another area.

Canoe, kayak rental. sailing lessons and boat use.

Create access for individuals with disabilities – fishing platform, etc.

Repair/improve dock.

Move or improve boat ramp.

Create green space/ picnic area on waterfront.

Liability safety issues need to be considered.

Consider access routes, trails, sidewalks to other areas

Durham waterfront park could be attractive to visitors, businesses, hotel,

Design parking that will be realistic and compliment other uses.

Create more level grade in southwest corner to increase usable area.

Planning Issues

Planning board does not need to be involved since this is on town land.

Need to consider 250 foot shoreline setback, wetlands issues.

Keep all river front properties in mind during the planning process so that recommendations compliment all properties.

Recommendations should be developed in phases so that they can be implemented as resources are available.

Public Input

Use the town's list serve and channel 22 to raise awareness and to gather public input. Use focus sessions to gather public input. Presenting visuals will be important in sharing vision.

Info/ General Comments

UNH has property with 200 foot frontage next to waste treatment plant.

State has made overtures to develop site for water access.

State DOT interested in park and ride lot near intersection.

TO Do Items for next meeting

Robbie Woodburn will prepare a proposal to contract with a firm (Doucet) to do a site survey.

Judith will explore funding opportunities

Need to document current users of the site and be able to put some numbers on these;
Rowers, playground use, boat ramp and dock, fishing, other? Will consider doing a user survey. Judith and Robbie will get numbers on rowing usage. Could check boat trailer registrations.

Contact individuals named above to add to committee.

Share visions via email among committee members

Next Meeting

Next meeting will be Dec. 19, 4:00 – 5:30, Town Hall