

Minutes of the Jackson Landing Committee

Public Meeting, February 28, 2006

The meeting was called to get citizen input on what people would like to see develop at Jackson's Landing. Approximately 20 people, not including committee members, were in attendance.

The meeting opened with a short history by Dwight Baldwin of how the Committee was formed and what Council has asked the group to do. This is to prepare a report by July 1, 2006 that will define in detail those improvements that the community would most like to see accomplished and to propose possible funding sources for each project.

Robbi Woodburn, using the new topographic map of the site, then described the physical layout of Jackson's Landing. Several questions and statements about the characteristics of the site were generated from her presentation. Robbi then described the mechanism that would be employed to get citizen input. All in attendance broke up into smaller subgroups organized around 6 themes (see attached agenda of the meeting).

Following about ½ hour of idea generation, the group was called back into order, and Laurie Potter summarized the ideas that had been generated at each of the 6 stations. Then each person in attendance were given 6 colored sticky dots and were asked to affix their dots on the idea(s) they thought would best meet the recreational needs of the Town. The outcome of this exercise is shown on the attached sheets.

Ideas from Jackson Landing Improvement Committee Public Meeting

Waterfront Aesthetics:

- Create nature trail (*10 dots*)
- Fix boat ramp (*4 dots*)
- Make waterfront more "people-friendly", with a softer, more park-like feel (*2 dots*)
- Rekindle State's interest in site, primarily as source of funding. Apparently the State had expressed interest in the past in acquiring site and operating it as a public boat launch site. (*1 dot*)
- Prevent paving and use only permeable surfacing materials
- Consider Old Town Landing for some uses that surfaced at this meeting
- Weigh access for people with disabilities. Seek grant funds from NH Disabilities Council to install same.
- Increase "kid-friendliness", such as adding kayak classes, providing better/easier access to water that is less sloped and not near marshes
- Buy two house lots on Main Street/Route 108 near on-ramp to Route 4

- Promote rowing as a spectator sport – provide seating, etc.

New Facilities/Infrastructure:

- Dredge river to maintain and improve water-based uses (*10 dots*)
- Add parking, particularly for ice rink – suggested expanding parking to across Old Piscataqua Road (*8 dots*)
- Build skateboard park (*6 dots*)
- Build recreational center (*4 dots*)
- Add public restrooms (with shower) and improve existing ones, e.g., add mirror (*4 dot*)
- Build community center (*2 dots*)
- Build library
- Install emergency phone
- Gain space by filling ravine between existing road to boathouse and playground
- Build teen center
- Add snack facility

Recreational Spaces:

- Create indoor recreational space for basketball, ORYA office, etc. (*7 dots*)
- Create trails where dogs are permitted (*2 dots*)
- Promote water safety (*1 dot*)
- Do not permit skateboard park, belongs in different location
- Permit only small boats (defined as boats that do not have to be transported by trailer), move bigger boats elsewhere to create a softer, more pedestrian-oriented park at Jackson's Landing. (One participant noted that site deed states it is to be used for launching ramp and dock.)
- Reconstitute Durham Community Sailing (perhaps better suited to Wagon Hill Farm site b/c of wind and difficulty of sailing down river)
- Accommodate fishing

Social Issues:

- Tie together plans for all town-owned waterfront properties/parks (*8 dots*)
- Elevate environmental awareness: address concern that increased use could lead to more trash, additional chemicals/oil from motors/boats, etc. (*5 dots*)
- Improve awareness of site's resources and promote an outdoor, healthier lifestyle. For instance, encourage an anti-obesity theme. One idea was to add signage at Route 108 to advertise site to newcomers or town residents who are unaware of the site's attractions. (*6 dots*)
- Prioritize choices for site that comply with ordinances and represent suitable uses. Do not present hardship case to allow for other uses. (*2 dots*)
- Install picnic tables by water (*1 dot*)
- Assure handicapped access to boat launch and restrooms
- Acquire and house rescue boat

Boating Issues:

- Combine rowing/paddle boating/motor boating use with paddle boat rental and sailboat rental, kayak racks, lessons (*19 dots*)
- Improve boat launch, e.g., fix ramp, add better dock that allows boaters to push boat on/off trailer, increase dock space so visitors may leave boats while visiting town (*4 dots*)
- Promote UNH/Town partnership (*2 dots*)
- Mark channel of river (*1 dot*)
- Build shop to create wooden boats (*1 dot*)
- Move UNH boathouse/use of docks
- Expand current or build new boathouse
- Replace docks or build them out further into the channel
- Use UNH pool to educate paddle boaters
- Improve handicapped access to boating
- Improve mooring for boats
- Move boat launch to east side of property
- Add hardware to docks (cleats, etc.)
- Add signage regarding tides to aid boat launching and improve safety
- Install two-level dock to facilitate launching in both small and large boats

Ice Rink and ORYA:

- Move ice rink – land is too valuable for use as ice rink (*5 dots*)
- Enclose ice rink (*2 dots*)
- Add outdoor rink in traditional New England style
- Provide heated seating
- Add rental skates and helmets
- Purchase new, reliable Zamboni
- Create multiple uses for rink, particularly in summer time (e.g., indoor hockey, basketball)
- Charge for use of rink, possibly create memberships
- Provide more skating time for school-aged kids
- Post signage indicating rink hours

Miscellaneous:

- Improve relationship between town and UNH sports to coordinate recreational uses at one facility, such as boating and other outdoor lifestyle choices (*5 dots*)
- Ensure access, e.g., bus, shuttle