

Washington St. Workgroup
Thursday, January 4, 2024
Hybrid: Zoom and in person at the Land Bank Office

Members present: Matt Fee, Brooke Mohr, Allen Reinhard

Members absent: Kristina Jelleme

Staff present: Vince Murphy, Leah Hill, Chuck Larson, Jesse Bell, Rachael Freeman

Guest speakers: Laura Marett from SCAPE

A. CONVENE IN OPEN SESSION-

1. WASHINGTON STREET LONG-RANGE PLANNING

a. Scope and Fee Discussion

- Community outreach discussion about what we want it to look like, hybrid and/or virtual, and what questions we want answers to influence the design. SCAPE recommends 3 meetings.
 - Create both virtual and in person meetings. Virtual more of a webinar style with a facilitator.
 - First wave of outreach is an informational session and SCAPE already has materials that sets the stage and we can ask baseline question about communities' goals and values.
 - Second wave happens when most people are on island and we introduce the schematic design alternatives for public feedback.
 - Third and final wave wraps up the engagement and discuss project next steps and funding.
 - Target questions for phase 1: active vs passive use- How are people going to utilize the space? How are people going to get there safely and park?
 - Primary function is resilience and second function active use (kayaks, swimming, etc.)
 - Land Bank Commission uses this process for their projects, develop an idea of what are the possibilities and then ready to get feedback. What are the resources involved and how are we going to solve the problem?
 - Build in a series of stakeholder events such as homeowners in the area and truck companies to explain goal setting, risks, and opportunities before reaching out to the general public. SCAPE can provide a "meeting in a box".
 - Purpose of the education piece is letting people know the plan, support for funding, getting ahead of negativity with ongoing communication and the consequences if we don't do anything. Brooke suggested to do a joint Select Board (SB) and Land Bank Commission meeting on a Wednesday night because the public watches the SB meetings.
 - Town staff asked if they have time and capacity to be able to run stakeholder meetings. They answered that it depends on the time of year and that we would get back to the group.

- Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) discussion around doing it for the whole framework plan or segmenting it out for the first phase. \$ value for criticality because truck route and it's the main road people get in and out of town.
 - Laura asked the intent for a FEMA approved BCA and if it is to enable us to seek future federal grant funding and not about certifying the project as a FEMA structure. Staff concurred it is the first reason. She will add it into the scope of work.
- Discussions about the ends of the project plan and where will compensation flood storage be. Laura showed a map indicating all the flood pathways for Washington St. during an annual storm projected in 2070. If the framework plan is implemented without addressing flanking then it reduces those pathways significantly to keep Washington St. dry. Addressing flanking on Consue Spring is more complicated to address.
- Discussion on how the whole framework would link up to the Downtown Neighborhood Flood Barrier.

b. MOU Discussion

- Suggested and agreed to add in jointly seeking grant funding and collaboration on applications to MOU.

c. Offshore Wind Grant Proposal Discussion

- Vince explained how the money is split up and that he is coordinating the Town grant proposals.
- Discussion on how to jointly apply, have Land Bank apply, or the Town apply.
- Leah suggested applying for a grant to fund Environmental Justice (EJ) Community Committee, translating documents, funding for EJ community members to engage, participate and share lived knowledge to lay the groundwork for inclusive communication and engagement. MEPA will require this.
 - Staff will discuss and decide if Town or Land Bank apply for the grant

d. Next Steps

- Finalize scope
- Finalize MOU
- Discuss direct stakeholder outreach and engagement

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. September 28, 2023 approved (3-0)

3. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULING

- First Thursday of every month- next meeting February 1, 2024

4. ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, OR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

B. ADJOURNMENT