

Washington St. Workgroup
Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 9:00am
Hybrid: Zoom and in person at the Land Bank Office

Members present: Brooke Mohr, Nat Lowell, Allen Reinhard

Members absent: Matt Fee, John Stackpole

Staff present: Vince Murphy, Leah Hill, Jesse Bell, Claire Martin, Cecil Barron Jensen, Charles Johnson, Gregg Tivnan, Chuck Larson, Drew Patnode, Laura Marrett (SCAPE)

Packet here: https://nantucket-ma.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_06272024-13978

A. CONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. May not exceed 3 minutes per speaker.

2. DISCUSSION ON SUGGESTED WORKGROUP NAME CHANGE

- Jesse Bell suggested we add collaborative to the workgroup name because with the Land Bank and Town working together collaboration is so important for resiliency work. Allen concurred and said it makes it more comprehensive. Nat said it helps define the group more and separates it from all the other workgroups the Town has.
- Approval (3-0) for new name Washington Street Collaborative Workgroup

3. WASHINGTON STREET FRAMEWORK PLAN-PHASE 1 CATALYTIC PROJECT

2. Review project timeline

- Laura went over the draft schedule and explained what the sub-consultants will be working on (see packet). The project is 26 weeks long and the predesign phase should start right after the 4th of July week.
- Nat suggested adding a person from Nantucket Island Resorts to the stakeholder group list so that we work in a collaborative way with other entities.
- Brooke asked what is important to do with stakeholder groups now so that it does not get confused with the larger Washington St. Resilience Framework. Laura said that the messaging will be especially important and recommended in the first set of meetings we explain the analysis that has been done at the corridor phase and then that the portion that is moving forward is this small segment in the Francis Beach area as the phase 1 project. It is important to be very clear on the long-term vision.
- Vince recommended displaying the smaller project area repeatedly because we don't have budget right now for projects anywhere outside of this area.
- Brooke suggested creating a stakeholder list for the larger Washington St. Resilience Framework and let them know where they can find information on the project.

2. Discuss and solidify project goals

- The goals can evolve if needed as the project moves forward.
- Laura read the updated goals (see packet). Vince suggested adding economic into the project goals and there was a discussion about

effectively communicating the cost of no action vs. acting. Laura will use this feedback and draft another goal to incorporate it.

2. Develop project name

- The group discussed that it is important to differentiate it from the larger Washington St. Resilience Framework vision while being descriptive and transparent. Cecil suggested the Francis St. Beach Improvement Project because this project will drastically improve the beach and adding improvement instead of resilience is less controversial. Another suggestion was “Preserve Washington St: Phase 1” would contextualize it in the bigger picture. Leah Hill suggested “Francis St. Beach Re-envisioned”, “Re-envision Francis St.”, and a few others but recommended regardless of the name improvement or re-envision should be in the name. Jesse Bell mentioned that most people don’t like change and so using re-envision can scare people off. Improvement is more benign and captures everything including resilience, protecting, and enhancing. Claire suggested adding a subtitle to further describe it as phase 1. The consultants recommended using a hierarchy and they will put a few names together for the workgroup to look at in the next meeting.
- Discussion about renaming the beach arose because the project title is very wordy. A name change would need to be at the Select Board’s discretion. Brooke recommended we leave the name as it is because people know what and where Francis St. beach is now. Potentially in the future as an engagement activity the beach can be renamed.

2. Discuss and confirm design priorities

2. Necessary vs. variables

- Laura explained and showed the conceptual renderings of what the project could look like including a rain garden, stormwater parking lot, and elevating the dune system with an embedded flood wall at Francis St. Beach (see packet).
- Givens/necessary/non-negotiables include: multimodal path that eventually connects to the Consue Spring’s bike path, flood risk reduction, stormwater management on the inland side, public access to the water front and universal accessibility, implementable, attainable, and feasible solutions. Leah suggested adding safety, the group agreed and went into a discussion about how Washington St. is not very safe for walkers, bikers, etc.
- Variables (negotiables): specific recreational activities, design aesthetics, materials, road circulations and crossings.

2. Comments on engagement plan

2. Financial incentives for participants

- Laura asked if there were any comments on the engagement plan discussed last meeting and there were none.

- Leah reached out to Brian Turbitt, the Finance Director, regarding financial incentives for participants and he is going to investigate it but does not have an answer for the workgroup right now.

2. Proposed geographic scope for abutters list

2. Set date and format for focus group #1

- The focus group will include the property owners within the larger Washington St. Resilience Framework map because they are at risk of flooding today and in the future.
- The workgroup discussed potential dates for the focus group with abutters. The workgroup asked an abutter (Duane Jones) what he and his neighbors prefer for dates and times for the meeting. He had no opinion as far as the date but asked for the meeting to be after work hours. With his input, the workgroup decided it will be at 5pm the night of July 29th.

2. List of special interest/focus groups

2. Discuss format for these meetings

- The community open house the week of August 5th will showcase both the Francis Street Beach project and the Easy St. Flood Mitigation project so that we don't ask the public to come to two different events. Two identical sessions will occur and be drop in so that community members can come and go at their leisure. There will be food and drinks provided.
- Leah reached out to many different venues and only heard back from one. The group developed a list of other potential venues for Leah to pursue. Laura recommended the venue be close to the project site.

2. Next Steps

4. NEXT MEETING: July 12, 2024 at 11:00 am

5. ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, OR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Duane Jones asked how this project was going to be passed by the new Conservation Commission (Con Comm) regulations. Vince replied that he helped draft those regulations and he has bigger projects than this getting approved by Con Comm.
- Jesse asked Laura if SCAPE will just be attending the community meetings or if the other subconsultants will? Jesse said it will be beneficial to have Woods Hole Group attend the abutter meeting because there will be questions about the flood risk and engineering.

B. ADJOURNMENT

- Approved 3-0