

Washington St. Workgroup Minutes
Friday, November 8th, 2024 at 11:00am
Hybrid: Zoom and in person at the Land Bank Office

Members present: Brooke Mohr, Nat Lowell, Allen Reinhard, Matt Fee, John Stackpole

Members absent:

Staff present: Rachael Freeman, Charles Johnson, Clair Martin, Drew Patnode, Chuck Larson, Ben Agrawal, Leah Hill, Laura Marrett (SCAPE), Mitchell Martin (Hazen and Sawyer), Joe Famely (Woods Hole Group), Kelly Zhan (SCAPE), Linh Pham (SCAPE), Ryan Cavanaugh (Tighe and Bond)

Packet here: https://nantucket-ma.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_11082024-14451

Youtube: [Washington Street Work Group-11/08/2024](#)

A. CONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

- May not exceed 3 minutes per speaker
- No public comment

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- June 21, 2024
- June 27, 2024
- July 12, 2024
- August 23, 2024
 - All Approved (5-0)

3. FRANCIS STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

- Update on project timeline
 - Linh updated the group on current tasks that have been scheduled including a SCAPE visit on 11/15 and a workshop in early January.
 - Brooke questioned which sites SCAPE wanted to visit in which Laura responded they'd love input and listed a few landbank locations as well as the site project itself
 - Rachael recommended Windswept Bog and emphasized one of landbanks goal in working with SCAPE was to keep the Nantucket aesthetic.
 - The team discussed how to approach the public and understand how/why this work would be permitted under the conservation commission
- Discussion on design variables to ask the community
 - Laura mentioned the potential of the Washington street extension project as a future design doing more relative to the current site
 - Nat suggested bringing in the NHC
 - Laura mentioned there was a lot of support natural landscapes as well as accessible paths from the public while recreation was mixed
- Discussion on design character and language

- Laura discussed the previous studies done on design and emphasized the need for this to connect to a broader framework
- Brooke mentioned liking curves as its more responsive to the natural environment
- Laura questioned how HDC would perceive the curves
- Brooke mentioned bikes not being able to be seen in curvatures and noted some areas of concern
- Racheal mentions the land bank has been moving towards curves, giving Lily Pond and Easton St as an example
- Laura asked about the level of light touch versus more space for gathering, maybe the amount of decking didn't need to be as generous
- Matt suggests that wider is better, people will sit on steps, but they don't want to be encouraging people to "grill"
- Laura mentioned the kayak rental was part of every scheme
- Brooke mentions this not being a place people drive to to hang out but rather as a stop over
- Laura questioned the possibility of underground water storage being a possibility and about the programming of such a study and if it's what the group envisions instead of a rain garden
- Nat mentioned this needed to be a landbank decision and that it's the group to discuss the water portion, and what they want it to look like now
- Nat discussed the old pipe that runs under the Washington St. extensions, that the idea was to make a storm water pump system from this pipe
- Charles explained the history and the proposed ideas for this pipe
- Laura explained that this type of work would take a lot of time and should be looked at but went on to describe different thoughts for this pipe and preventative measures
- Nat explained the desire to not do things twice down the road
- Laura mentioned the Washington St. alignment being the rail alignment and it was filled in
- Rachael mentioned the swells not being the need all be all, but having gravity pump water somewhere and there would be a little bit of water storage as a temporary measure
- Nat wanted this to be looked at more as a water feature not entirely storage but some storage and wanted to know what the landbank was doing with the space
- Racheal asked for opinions on this
- Brooke noted the heavy traffic and construction on either side, and wanted it to be looked at as functional rather than a social space
- Laura questioned if the park by Consue was the type that they wanted to see or if there was something else
- Allen voiced that the issue with this space was there was no sidewalk or crosswalk to enter
- Rachael noted that this area doesn't have a ton of use due to the issues of

access

- Nat noted the material of the decking and that it might be a heavy material such as Easy St. noting that this has to be resilient and not break up
- Laura questioned if this does become an extended use path, is wood the appropriate material
- Nat mentioned composite material but that they would bring in the HDC
- Questions on the “permeable asphalt” by Henry Jr’s and changes about the bike path
- Laura mentioned these would be teased out in discussions and brought to the community and group for discussion
- Nat brought up the discussion about the private property owners getting help for moving, and noted this should be woven into the project along with the ability to adapt

4. DISCUSSION ON FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULES

- Laura discussed the next meeting and tying the site visits and today’s discussion into the following meeting
- Laura mentioned confirming a date for the community workshop given the public location as well as the need to cancel December 13th but brought up the 20th as a reschedule possibility
- They will cancel the 27th meeting and come back in January to review, noting the desire to have time to develop alternatives as well as take all feedback and document the preferred direction
- Evening of January 14th and morning of the 15th as potential meetings
- Brooke mentioned no Wednesday evening meetings
- All agree on the December 20th meeting
- Brooke liked the 14th 15th timeline
- Discussed differences between children’s beach and this project wanting to stop by during their visit
- Brooke stated children’s beach was unappealing due to it being a square
- Discussion on natural places to sit from children’s beach
- Laura thanked everyone

5. NEXT MEETING: November 22, 2024 at 11:00 am

6. ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, OR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

7. ADJOURNMENT

- Approved 5-0