

Cochecho
Waterfront
Development
Advisory
Committee

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A Message from the Chair

Dear Friends of the Waterfront,

Welcome to the 11th edition of the waterfront newsletter. As you recall from our last newsletter in April, the Cochecho Waterfront Development Advisory Committee (CWDAC) has been focusing on the design of the public waterfront park design and layout.



Jack Mettee

After our March 15 meeting, Union Studio came up with a preferred preliminary concept plan that was highlighted in our last newsletter. Using this concept plan as a template, the Union Studio Team came up with three options for the waterfront docking facilities that were presented at our April 18 meeting, as shown in the figure below. One of these was located at the so-called "knuckle" where a proposed floating dock as well as other docking and ramp facilities may be located. Two other locations for the floating dock were suggested further down river while other docking and ramp facilities remained at the knuckle.

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To contact the committee, or to share comments, visit our contact form on the project website here.

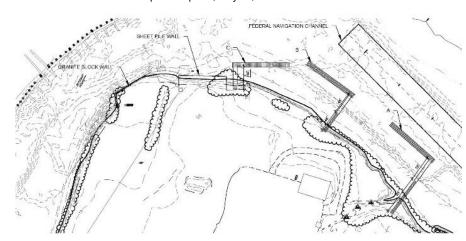
Upcoming meetings:

Cochecho Waterfront
Development Advisory
Committee

 The next meeting of CWDAC will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2016.
 Click here for more information.

More Information

For more information about the Cochecho Waterfront Development Advisory



Each of these options had pluses and minuses, which the committee discussed. A major issue for the locations further down stream was the potential impact to marine resources such as eel grass and mudflats. Other issues included potential for boating congestion, as well as hazardous materials. Cost issues were also considered. While the committee preferred the middle location of the three (Option B) for the floating dock, it was also more expensive than Option C and was more likely to have permitting issues with the state resource agencies.

The committee asked Union Studios to continue its efforts to get more information about the resources in these areas and to get a better read from the resource agencies about the permitting issues associated with each of the floating dock locations. The other critical issue facing the city is how the resource agencies will consider the inclusion of the existing sheet pile bulkhead on the knuckle that was installed for the river dredging some years ago. Can it stay in place or will it have to be removed? The answer may depend on how the sheet pile was originally permitted.

CWDAC and Union Studio will continue to look at these waterfront park issues and further refine the plans for the floating dock and other docking facilities as well as the full park design.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on May 17 when we will have a discussion with Union Studio team members about the preferred concept plan.

Your Chairman,

Tack metter

Jack Mettee

Planning for Sea Level Rise

Committee and development of the City's waterfront property, or to contact the committee, visit the City of Dover's waterfront development page here.

CWDAC Mission Statement

"... [T]o provide a vibrant waterfront with public gathering places and access to the water, a place for people to live, meet, relax, encounter nature, conduct business and learn of Dover's past."

In the process of developing concept plans for the public park area of the waterfront, CWDAC instructed Union Studio to plan for the potential impacts of projected sea level rise. A recent report from the NH Coastal Risks and Hazards Commission looked at several scenarios for sea level rise. As shown in Figure 1 below, by 2050 the rise could be anywhere from 0.6 feet to 2 feet.

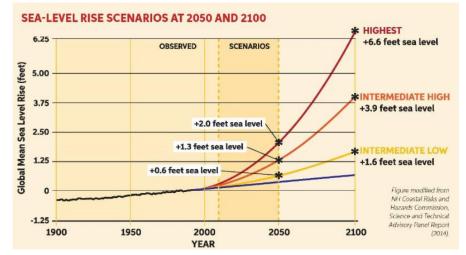


Figure 1

Consequently, it will be necessary to raise the level of the waterfront parcel to minimize future flooding or inundation of the site. Grading plans being developed now are calling for soil from upper elevations to be relocated to raise the elevation of the land currently at lower elevations. This will increase the area suitable for future development and account for potential sea level rise. See how this might affect final site layout in Figure 2.

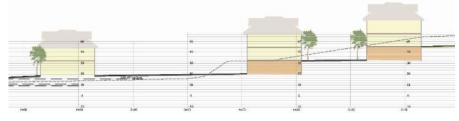


Figure 2

The final decisions on the finished elevation will be made in consultation with state and federal permitting agencies.

Any new buildings and infrastructure, including waterfront park facilities, will need to be built in a manner that takes into account these sea level rise projections. These improvements are intended to last for many decades so it makes sense to plan ahead.

Waterfront environmental issues need to be consistent with environmental regulations

Another important aspect of waterfront park design will be the need to address environmental issues. The final design must be consistent with the various environmental assets of the site. The following tasks need to be undertaken to better understand the best approach to minimize environmental impact.

- Field survey of threatened and endangered species (plant and animal) identified by NH Natural Heritage Bureau;
- 2. Field survey of emergent vegetation and trees along the shoreline;
- Identification of mean high tide, mean low tide and highest observable tide elevations;
- 4. Develop shoreline stabilization plans;
- 5. Updated wetlands delineation plan;
- 6. Site sampling and testing of identified petroleum contaminated soils;
- 7. Site grading plan.



Once these issues have been properly characterized or completed, we will work with state and federal regulators on a waterfront park design that will lead to the issuing of environmental permits.



Missed the meeting? Catch it here

The Cochecho Waterfront Development Advisory Committee last met on Tuesday, April 19, 2016.

To view the meeting online, click here.



1823 - "A person on the Landing having in charge a wagon loaded with powder, strewed a quantity on the ground; a lad touched the loose powder with a coal of fire, which communicated to the straw in the wagon, and the whole exploded. Two men were killed in attempting to stop the horses, and a third was seriously injured. The wagon was blown to atoms. "

The Dover Bank, incorporated at the June session of the Legislature, this year, commenced business in its new building near the Landing.

City of Dover, 288 Central Avenue, Dover, NH 03820

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