

Summary of Comments: Waterfront Public Meeting

The following issues/comments/concerns are compiled from the four break-out sessions during the June 26th rezone public meeting and represent the primary ideas offered to frame a proposed zoning ordinance.

Primary Issues

- Parking and traffic came up in every group. Specifically parking to serve existing boaters (commercial and recreational boaters), access to the beach, existing businesses, adjoining neighborhoods, as well as potential new development.
- Service access for the commercial fishing fleet was a separate but related concern. i.e. parking, access for fuel trucks, and other service vehicles serving the docks.
- Need to consider active recreational and commercial marinas currently exist and new development should not eliminate these uses. This ranges from preserving “as is” condition, to focusing on travel lifts, to preserving winter storage services.
- Public walkway/ access is a desirable recreational amenity along the length of the waterfront. Need to consider design, signage, and facilities (seats, lighting, trash, etc.)
- Development needs to be at a small to modest scale (need to work towards an understanding of what this means).
- Development needs to support public access to the water, and provide interest in connecting to the water. Development should not act as a barrier to the water.
- Specific commercial uses such as restaurants, ice cream shop, café, retail along with maritime uses are generally supported. Visitor center and/or interpretive center.
- Provide connection to/ or should be better linked to the downtown corridors.

Particular Items of Note

- Support for residential as a component of the waterfront is varied.
- Residential only as a use is not supported, however there is a variety of point of views relative to mixed use with residential.
- Any residential needs to be at a human scale, and located on upper floors with ground floor commercial.
- Alternative methods for getting people to the waterfront (walking, biking, shuttle/ trolley) should be considered/ supported.
- Preserving commercial fishing along with recreational facilities.
- Public art could be incorporated into walkway and/or pocket parks that dot the waterfront.
- Seasonality needs to be considered – uses that are active 12 months a year is desirable.
- Need to consider climate change when developing zoning regulations and when reconstructing infrastructure support current and proposed uses.