

Summary of Comments: Stakeholder Meetings

The following issues/comments/concerns/aspirations are compiled from the eight stakeholder meetings conducted during the months of July, August and September. They represent the common issues and opportunities raised during these meetings and will help guide a proposed zoning ordinance and other City endeavors.

Primary Themes

- The need for more parking is an issue for existing land uses and proposed development. Improving existing parking facilities and creating opportunities for more parking (off-site and on-site) was a common theme.
- Increasing opportunities for alternative transportation (i.e. trolley, bike/ped improvements) was a common theme.
- Improving traffic circulation and safety at the Cabot/Water/Front Street intersection and along Water Street was a common theme.
- The zoning ordinance should consider interactions between new development and recreational and commercial boating.
- Scale of new development must complement the surrounding context. New development should not overwhelm the waterfront or the surrounding land uses. It should be oriented to the pedestrian.
- Future development should not marginalize the commercial fishing fleet. City policy and development regulations should support and expand, where possible, commercial fishing.
- Recreational marina, and supporting uses and infrastructure, is an important resource and should be preserved and expanded where possible. Consideration should be given as to what degree and intensity will occur (i.e. winter storage, red building, travel lifts, repair and maintenance, etc.), and how public access interacts with marina needs.
- The desire for a more open and publicly accessible waterfront is a major theme that appeared at the public meetings. A public promenade was most commonly referenced as a desired amenity.
- Preserving and enhancing the existing public park and walkways and creating new opportunities for public access to and along the harbor was also a key theme.
- The nature and scale of retail/restaurant uses was a relatively common theme. The desire for a mix of smaller scale, pedestrian oriented businesses that serve a broad client base and complement the existing uses along the harbor was favorable.
- Increasing opportunities for connectivity was mentioned repeatedly. Suggestions for improving connections included the following:
 - Better connect the harbor to the west side of the railroad bridge.
 - Better connect the harbor to the downtown and neighborhoods.
 - Encourage a linear, cohesive corridor along the harbor
 - Increase visual corridors and pedestrian connections from the waterside to and through the landside uses.
- Interest in residential as a part of the use mix is again varied.

Particular Items of Note

- There is an opportunity to attract transient boaters to Beverly as a destination or stopover for longer trips. Could bring additional vitality to the waterfront as well as market for businesses on the waterfront.
- Discussion around federal channel location and additional space for expanding docks was varied.
- Many concerns and solutions discussed with commercial fishing fleet revolved around dock facilities and amenities.
- Discussion did occur in a number of occasions around urban design, and architectural character of new development. Development should reinforce access to the water, reflect historic character of surrounding neighborhoods, and pedestrian scale.