

CREATING A BEVERLY HARBOR AND WATERFRONT PLAN-2018

Goals of the Project

This project intends to accomplish several goals: (a) identify current and future uses for the land and water of Beverly Harbor and the land on the eastern bank and water of the Bass River; (b) support existing and create new public access opportunities along the waterfront; (c) support recreational fishing and boating; (d) develop better connections between the waterfront and the downtown; (e) understand the impact of sea level rise and climate change on boating, public access, and future development.

The final report from this process will contain a vision and implementation plan for the harbor and waterfront which will help to inform an update of the existing master plan that the City plans to take up beginning in early 2019.

Project Funding and Leadership

The City received a grant from the Massachusetts Seaport Economic Council to support this effort. The lead consultant, Harriman, was hired by the City to work on the project in conjunction with the City's Planning Department. Harriman is a design and engineering firm with a focus on urban design, urban planning and landscape architecture. They are working with two other consulting firms, FXM, specializing in economic development planning and GEI, providing multi-disciplined engineering and technical services with a specific expertise in development near the water. In order to ensure that a diverse array of local perspectives are represented the City formed a 12-member Advisory Committee composed of community members and business representatives. The Advisory Committee has met on a regular basis to review and comment on the planning process, and provide oversight and input on research, conclusions, and recommendations.

Community Engagement

Integral to the success of this project is input from the community. It is critical that the City hear from residents and business owners in the project area and also from the city-at-large. Thus far, the City has held two public meetings and an open house. At the first public meeting and the first open house, members of the community were asked to share their knowledge of the study area and provide feedback on potential strategies for the area. At the second public meeting, community members provided feedback about specific strategies and land uses for the future of the harbor and waterfront.

The significance of Massachusetts Chapter 91 (Massachusetts Public Waterfront Act)

Chapter 91 is a state law that protects public access to the waterfront and water. The regulations that accompany Chapter 91 require the owners of property located along the waterfront to take certain steps to preserve and maintain access. There are also certain uses that are prohibited. The City must consider these requirements if they create zoning

changes. Harriman has researched the Chapter 91 licenses held by properties in the project area. This information may guide consideration of future zoning.

Next Public Forum

The City of Beverly is holding an Open House on **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15 FROM 4-7 PM IN THE BARNET GALLERY, BEVERLY PUBLIC LIBRARY, 32 ESSEX STREET.** It will provide the public and interested parties with an opportunity to review draft elements of the Beverly Harbor / Waterfront Plan. These elements include a review of the existing conditions analysis, a draft vision statement, and recommendations for how the waterfront and harbor will be utilized in the future. City Planning staff and members from the Consulting team will be available to review the draft elements on a one-to-one basis, and discuss next steps. This will be another opportunity to learn more about the process and share comments relative to the draft plan.

Documents

This section is coming soon.