

MEETING MINUTES

Morses Pond Beach Area and Bath House Improvements
Virtual Public Meeting 1
Town of Wellesley, MA
March 9, 2022, at 7pm (Zoom)

Meeting Attendees

Town of Wellesley

- Recreation Director – Matt Chin(MC)
- Paul Cramer
- Jenn Lawlor

Weston & Sampson

- Landscape Architecture – Johnathan Law / Farah Dakkak

MaryAnn Thompson Architects

- Architecture - Zac Cardwell / Jeffrey Dike

Community Members

- Barbara McMahan, Gwen Baker, Heidi, Joe Schott, Mark Wolfson, Maureen Febiger, Meg Steere, Renate, Tracey Krechevsky, Anne C., Lauren Lin.

1. Site Wide Improvement Comments/Feedback

Paul Cramer:

PV was mentioned, can you talk more about the power needs?

- **Zac Cardwell:** At this stage and phase we are not tasked with assessing PV needs. But the building will not require too much. Being a net neutral energy building is achievable.

Meg Steere:

The proposed boardwalk at Ice House Pond goes by an existing swan nest.

Green lawn: Love the idea, but what's the method around upkeep and mowing.

Trash cans: The site is windy, so products chosen should contain the trash.

Building: Having that many windows facing the pond, especially considering the amount of sunlight the area gets.

Shade – Providing shade is very important.

- **Johnathan Law:** The Ice House Pond boardwalk layout will be revised as we progress through the design process. We will avoid any conflict with any wildlife with our final designs. We would propose a grass mix that does not require the use of pesticides. These mixes are becoming more frequent today. The building overhang will provide shade, but we can incorporate shade within the site furniture.

Maureen Febiger:

Scandinavian style and modern furniture would be very appropriate. I like the colored options you showed

Shade – Providing shade where possible. For beach goers closer to the water.

- **Zac Cardwell:** Building roofline and shade provided by that.
- **Johnathan Law:** Seating options that also incorporates umbrellas.

Maureen Febiger:

Extending the use season of the site.

- **Johnathan Law:** We envision the design will extend the use into more seasons.
- **Matt Chin:** This is correct, we are trying to make the site more seasonal and used throughout the year.

Joe Schott:

Making the space a 40 week a year, when I look at the concession stand and admin building. Can we consider partition walls and removable walls – making the space larger when needed, then adding back the walls when the summer season is on.

Moving the building and providing an open space as you come into the site is great. Can we use the lawn spaces for programable amphitheater space?

Making the site more accessible is great, and to be commended.

Paul Cramer:

Second what Joe said, moving the exercise equipment areas away from the peninsular view as you approach the pond.

Gwen Baker:

The boardwalk at Ice House Pond, gets gross in the summer. Dredging the pond is an idea while considering the ecology of the space.

Dropping of children and carrying items to the beach is a problem most people face.

Extending the use of the site will be terrific.

Mark Wolfson:

Restoration of Icehouse Pond is a conversation that may need to happen as part of this project. To provide more use.

Paul Cramer:

Kayak storage structure – need to make sure it's not obstructing the views as you approach the site.

Lauren Lin:

The Ice House Pond boardwalk has nesting swans in this location.

The Kayak Storage structure – Has there been discussion with Wellesley High School, to consider their needs and crew uses.

- **Matt Chin:** Maybe not necessarily crew, but sail boats and other water activities we can look at incorporating in the future. In terms of scope and size of storage.

- **Paul Cramer:** The pond has some growth, at its current condition, we can consider more recreational activities, but sail boats would be problematic.

Paul Cramer:

Fencing that separates Ice House Pond from Morses Pond.

- **Johnathan Law:** It will be a combination of fencing and planting to ensure that people cannot walk straight into the beach area

Lauren Lin:

Will the parking lot be about the same size or slightly bigger than what's out there?

- **Johnathan Law:** Slightly larger in size with more parking spaces.

Paul Cramer:

Will the current existing beach house be removed?

- **Johnathan Law:** Yes correct, we are planning to also keep as many of the trees on site. Knowing that some trees will need to be removed where the new building is proposed. We are planting new trees to make up for some of the removal.

Paul Cramer:

Removal of poison ivy and other invasive plants that need to be cleared out to accommodate movement through the space.

- **Johnathan Law:** This will be looked at more closely in future work.

Paul Cramer:

Significant removal of tree canopy along the train line. What's the implication on the relocated bathhouse?

- **Johnathan Law:** When the site is in heavy use during the weekend, the trains will not be running as regularly. We also hope the kids are having so much fun their noise will drown out that of the train.

Joe Schott:

We have a lot of people interested in fishing at Ice House Pond. Can you accommodate fishing by providing more overlook locations?

Can there be a spot that accommodates fishermen?

- **Paul Cramer:** We need to establish the rules around fishing.
- **Johnathan Law:** We can widen parts of the deck at Ice House Pond to provide space for fishing.

Mark Wolfson:

This is a great starting point, and we can develop the design through the feedback received from the community.

Mark Wolfson:

Encourage everybody to visit the Walden Pond Visitor Center.

End of Meeting Minutes.