

Newington Fox Point Shoreline Stabilization Options Fox Point Town Property Breakout Group Notes

Monday, March 26, 2018

Question

First impressions of the day, anything you just need to say before we move on?

Answer

Any project that is done on town land needs to be fundable and permitable.

Question

How would you all prioritize the sites that we visited today? Based on funds, worst case, experiment value, easiest to do, etc.?

Answer

1. Habitat Restoration value.
2. Erosion control.
3. Need to look at how the town's approach/treatment of site might vary after, e.g., 5 years.
4. Demonstration: want it to be an example to others, including citizens, and other towns.
5. Access: need access for land protection projects.
6. Access: not needed for restoration. ARM Funds are available and the fact that the town owns the land and restrict access should not matter.
7. Long term monitoring is very important; we have to know if we are successful.
8. Other issues: public access, whether town residents or not, human visitation can be a major factor of success or not being successful and needs to be thought through for the sites.
9. Funding. It always comes down to funding: How much is available and how much you can do on a shore (scale)? It's nice to have a success to build off of.
 - The town has their annual "Spring for the Bay" event, this year on April 24th in the evening. There are speakers and the event gives the town a chance to gauge citizen interest and may provide a change to get input on prioritizing sites and or actions.
 - ARM pre-proposal due April 30, 2018.

Comment

Has the town considered a NO Action Approach? This may be best option for some sites, although it can be hard for some to take this approach.

Question

What are the Pros/Cons or Challenges/Opportunities of the two town sites we visited today?

Boat Launch

Pros marsh habitat already there
 Town owned
 Scale of the project seems appropriate

DRAFT—not approved by participants. Names next to comments do not indicate direct quotes.

Good place to show success

Cons

The docks being stored on the marsh
Light may be limited and may require some tree thinning/removal
Thatch on the marsh might need to be dealt with on a routine basis

Beach

Pros Habitat is a plus
Town owned
You could phase projects based on funds
Equipment/workers access to the site would have to part of the phase plan

Cons

Scale is too large, need to phase the work
Are the slopes a problem with a phased project here? A. No should not be.

Comment

Tree removal from the shorelines will require an effective outreach campaign to be sure citizens understand what is going on, you will have to make a strong and clear case for the work.

Comment

Stefanie

Permitting: communicate early and often with permittees. Record challenges with Rules and explore options to support change in the rules.

Comment

Stefanie

Permits are good for 5 years, and then you can almost always get a 5-year extension.

Comment

Burdick

I don't think you can keep the floats at site #2 and still restore the marsh. I recommend devising a management plan for the floats.

Comment

Seth

[At this point Seth joined us, the following were his comments.]

- Look at the MA Ecological Restoration Limited Intent Permit as a possible model for here.
- **Fox Point:** It may be best to let erosion to occur at the point, which is the highest energy site (we did not see this site).
- **Beach:** Address the tree removal, geometry of the slope, cost-effective approach, and it's a good long-term option.

DRAFT—not approved by participants. Names next to comments do not indicate direct quotes.

- **Boat launch:** Good approach. Need to be careful about shade on marshes. The boat launch area is generally protected, which is why you have a salt marsh there. I would get the floats up on the upland (via boat ramp).
 - **Lori:** it's also highly visible.
- **Demonstration site:** A pilot project in a public place is a good approach. It's more important to have a successful pilot project, then use that to justify further work.
 - **Scale and success:** The town should carefully select site and scale of the project, perhaps scale should be smaller to make the work can be completed fully and to be sure there is a success.

Sense of the group:

- **Seth:** Most bang for the buck: the boat launch, because you can do many different techniques there; there's a marsh there; it's a compact area.
- **Jane:** The **boat launch** seems like the strongest candidate right now.

Next steps:

1. ARM Pre-proposal work
2. "Spring for the Bay" event planning