

Portsmouth Historic Properties Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan
Local Advisory Committee Meeting #2
July 20, 2017
Minutes

The Local Advisory Committee (LAC) meeting began at 10:00am with the following in attendance:

LAC Members: Eric Spear, Richard Shea, Reagan Ruedig, Rodney Rowland, and Jim Sanders.

Project Team/City Staff: Sam Merrill, Julie LaBranche, Jenna Dunham, Peter Britz and Nick Cracknell

City Staff Peter Britz and Nick Cracknell opened the meeting with introductions of the Project Team and LAC members, and presented an overview of the meeting agenda. Richard Shea commented that his name should be added to the June 27th minutes as being in attendance.

Jenna Dunham reviewed the work completed on the historical values survey which will be used to select the adaptation “candidate sites” for the project. The complete survey will be presented at the August 24th LAC meeting and maybe available on the City’s project website in advance.

Nick Cracknell presented a description and map of the preliminary Cultural Value Areas:

Working Waterfront, Downtown Waterfront, Prescott Park, Strawberry Banke and Langdon House, Civic Campus along South Mill Pond, Peirce Island, and South End Neighborhood. He asked the LAC for recommendations to modify the Cultural Value Area boundaries. Richard Shea noted that the Working Waterfront boundary should be enlarged slightly to include all land south of the Sarah Long Bridge. The LAC agreed on the proposed Cultural Value Areas and their boundaries.

Nick Cracknell presented the Cultural Value Areas scoring matrix which the LAC would use to rate the relative importance of each Cultural Value for each of the selection Areas: Public Use & Access, Aesthetic Value, Economic Value, Educational Value and Symbolic Value. Adrienne Harrison submitted input on the Cultural Value Area scoring in advance of the meeting. Julie LaBranche and Nick Cracknell led LAC members through the scoring process and recorded responses on a master Cultural Values matrix. Based on the combined scoring, the LAC and Project Team assigned relative scores for each Cultural Value Area. Refer to the attached final matrix results. In discussion of each Cultural Value Area, the LAC identified the following unique assets:

- Working Waterfront – salt piles, Thomas Leighton, deep water port
- Downtown Waterfront – Bow and Ceres Streets historic waterfront
- Prescott Park – historic working waterfront, views
- Strawberry Banke and Langdon House – historical significance and gathering place
- Civic Campus along South Mill Pond – library, school, water feature and fringing neighborhoods
- Peirce Island – sweeping harbor and ocean views
- South End Neighborhood – working waterfront, historic homes and colonial neighborhood fabric, sightseeing destination

Peter Britz wrapped up the meeting by reviewing “Next Steps” in the scoring process and selection of candidate sites. An expanded scoring matrix will be prepared which will include Historical Value scores, Cultural Value scores, flood depth/risk value scores, and property Assessed Value. The Story Map will be loaded to the City’s project webpage soon so that the LAC and Project Team can populate the site.

The LAC and Project Team scheduled the following LAC meetings from 10:00am-noon on August 24th and September 21st at the Strawberry Banke conference room.

The meeting concluded at 11:30am.