



## MEETING AGENDA & NOTES

This Meeting:	Capisic Pond Enhancements Neighborhood Meeting
Date/Time:	6:30-8:30 PM – January 21, 2014
Location:	Deering High School Cafeteria



### Meeting Objectives

- Understand Project Objectives
- Understand Regulatory Review Process and Project Schedule
- Understand Enhancement Plans
  - Pond Enhancement
  - Rockland Avenue Outfall

### Agenda

- Introductions/Greeting/Agenda Overview
- Brief Overview of Previous Pond and Park Decisions
- Overview of Local, State, and Federal Regulatory Process & Schedule
- Presentation of 80% Design Plans (Breakout Sessions – 2 tables)
  - Table 1: Rockland Avenue Outfall Plans and Renderings
  - Table 2: Capisic Pond Open Water Enhancement Plans and Renderings
    - Attendees are split into two groups and half to one table for 20-30 minutes and half to other table for 20-30 minutes.
- Recap & Closing

Project information and meeting materials available on the City of Portland website:

<http://publicworks.portlandmaine.gov/capisicpondparkproject.asp>

### Meeting Notes

- Introductions were provided by all (see attached sign-in sheet). Background information on the project progress and financing was provided by Councilor Ed Suslovic. An overview of the two projects and the ongoing permitting process was provided by David Senus and Zach Henderson from Woodard & Curran (see attached presentation).
- Project Team in attendance included David Senus, Zach Henderson, and Lauren Swett from Woodard & Curran; Regina Leonard from Regina S. Leonard Landscape Architect; and Jim Boyle and David Brenneman from Boyle Associates. City of Portland representatives in attendance included Mike Bobinsky, Doug Roncarati, and Nathaniel Smith.



- Member of the public and project abutter Nathan Smith suggested that a one page fact sheet about the project be developed for distribution to abutters and interested parties. The fact sheet should highlight the benefits & importance of implementing the watershed management plan, Rockland Avenue outfall improvement project, and pond enhancement project. Councilor Ed Suslovic agreed and requested this be provided.
- The group split into two groups for breakout sessions, one for the Capisic Pond Enhancement Project and one for the Rockland Avenue Outfall Project. After 20 minutes, the two groups switched tables.
- The following questions, comments, and concerns were raised for the Capisic Pond Project:
  - Q: How would you use the 10' diameter storm drain to drain base flow in the pond?  
A: A coffer dam would be installed in the pond, just above the project area. An opening would be made in the storm drain to allow the base flow to drain into the pipe and bypass the project area in the pond.
  - Q: After project completion, will skaters and skiers have access to the pond?  
A: Yes, several access points have already been chosen based on public comment and more can be added if needed.
  - Q: Will Capisic Street remain open during construction?  
A: Yes and a traffic control plan will be required of the contractor and reviewed by the City to ensure that trucks can safely enter and exit the site.
  - Q: Will Macy Street remain open during construction?  
A: Yes, but there will be some on-street parking limitations and traffic control will be necessary to safely manage truck traffic and allow residents access to and from their homes.
  - Q: What is a stabilized construction site entrance?  
A: A section of crushed stone material is installed in the area where a temporary gravel construction road meets an asphalt road. The crushed stone helps shed mud and dirt from truck tires and reduces tracking of these materials onto the roadway as trucks leave the site.
  - Q: Will Macy Street be repaired at the end of construction and who will be responsible for making the repairs?  
A: Yes, the street will be restored and both the City and its contractor will be responsible for the repairs.
  - Q: Where will the retained dredged material be kept?  
A: It will be collected within the pond and will be placed and stabilized along the edge of the pond to create the new pond banks. The pond bank will then be planted with various shrubs and plants to provide further stabilization.



- Q: The section of cattail marsh and brook to the north of the Rockland Avenue outfall is outside of the project area. Will that be preserved and maintained?  
A: Yes, that area will continue to be maintained as a cattail marsh by managing water levels in the pond, and the stream will continue to flow through on its way to the pond.
- Q: Does the planting plan call for taller trees, which might block our view of the pond, to be installed along the edge of the pond?  
A: Special care was taken to not propose new trees and shrubs where they would block specific viewsheds of the pond; “viewshed” areas are identified in the plan set.
- Q: Will any construction work or clearing be done outside the designated work area?  
A: Work and vegetation clearing will be confined to the project area unless a problem is encountered that requires an adjustment in the field; this would be overseen by the on-site inspector and project manager.
- Access for snow removal equipment was discussed. This equipment is used to clear the ice for skating. The location of this access point will be considered further, and anticipated near the end of Macy Street.
- Q: Will the contractor and/or City ensure that the new plantings become well-established and are replaced as needed?  
A: Yes, the permits will require a monitoring and management plan and residents will be able to inform staff about areas where new plants are failing to thrive. The site will be monitored over several years to ensure that the site recovers and the vegetation grows in. Funding will need to be included in the operating or capital improvement budgets to support long term site restoration.
- Q: If the project won't be finished until October, after the normal growing season, will the planting plan and site restoration be completed the following year?  
A: It's anticipated that plantings will happen in phases during the fall and following spring. Some additional site clean-up might also happen the following spring, depending on weather and the contractor's schedule.
- Q: Will the plant list be posted to the Capisic Pond Park project web page?  
A: Yes, the plant list was included in the attachments accompanying the meeting notes from 12-19-2013, which are posted on the web page.
- Q: Can the scope of the pond enhancement project be expanded to include consideration of stocking fish that could serve as forage food for wading birds, rather than waiting for or allowing fish species to become established by accident?  
A: Possibly, although it is challenging, from a regulatory perspective, to establish a fish stocking program. Furthermore, introduction of fish can have unintended consequences and result in degradation of the pond and wetland habitat. Further consideration of this issue will be necessary. The Design Team will contact the Department of Inland Fisheries



and Wildlife to discuss the viability of stocking fish in Capisic Pond (This answer was prepared subsequent to the meeting to provide response to public's question).

- Q: Will many trees along the edge of the pond be impacted by the construction project? A property owner identified a small grove of locust trees on the northwest side of the pond that screens their property from view.

A: Vegetation and tree removal will be confined to the project area and limited as much as possible. The locust grove will be noted and can be visited during the site walk to determine if it will be impacted by construction and how the issue can be addressed.

- Q: The western side of the pond should continue to serve as relatively undisturbed and inaccessible wildlife habitat (e.g.: Kingfisher perches and wood duck nesting sites).

A: Based on previous feedback any informal trails on the western side of the pond will not be improved or expanded and new trees, shrubs and plants will be installed after construction to discourage people from using the construction road to access that area. Limited, temporary signage might be used during construction to discourage people from accessing these areas.

- Q: What is a "viewshed" or "viewscape"?

A: The area that can be seen from a particular vantage point. The planting and restoration plan was designed to protect and/or enhance views of the pond from various perspectives and identified several particularly important viewsheds.

- The following questions, comments, and concerns were raised for the Rockland Avenue Outfall Project:

- The Design Team discussed the expected impacts to the existing trail located adjacent to the stream channel. The trail will need to be closed during construction. At certain times during construction, the trail may be left open in the evening, but the contractor may choose to close the trail 24-hours a day for pedestrian safety.

- Q: Is there the potential for sewer odors originating from the stormwater treatment unit?

A: Sewer odors are not anticipated. The treatment unit will be installed on the stormwater pipe, and will not be receiving sewer flow. Three solid manhole covers will be installed on the stormwater treatment unit, and all stormwater flows in and out of the system will be through inlet and outlet pipes. The structure will not be vented, and the only time it will be opened is during cleaning.

- Q: What is the frequency of cleaning for the stormwater treatment unit?

A: Similar systems in the City with smaller contributing watersheds are cleaned twice per year. The Rockland Outfall system will be cleaned at least twice per year, possibly more frequently. The system will be regularly evaluated during the first year to determine the ideal frequency of cleaning.

- Q: What is the impact of the project on abutting property values?



A: Negative impact to property values is not anticipated. The goal of the project is to improve the area, creating a more natural stream channel leading from the Rockland outfall to Capisic Pond. The stormwater treatment unit will help to reduce pollution to the outfall and Pond, and will only be visible as three solid manhole covers at the ground surface. Direct impacts to neighboring properties, for example, the need to remove and reset a fence on an abutter's property, will be addressed with the specific property owners prior to construction. Any unforeseen impacts to neighboring properties during construction, for example, damage to buried utility services, will be fully addressed by the City and the contractor as they arise, without expense to the property owner.

- Q: Will accumulated materials in the drainage channel beyond the bridge be removed?

A: The project plans do not indicate improvements beyond the bridge. Deposited material in the area may include accumulated erosion control fabrics. The project team will evaluate the area, and will adjust the limit of work for the outfall or pond project to account for cleanup of this area as necessary. The topography of the area around the bridge does create a restriction for flow, and this restriction will not be eliminated as part of this project, but a buildup of sediment and trash may be removed.

- Q: Pollution into Capisic Pond from the outfall and from Capisic Brook was discussed. The question was asked if the amount of pollution from each could be quantified and compared.

A: The Design Team indicated that a specific comparison would be difficult to calculate. It was noted that the watershed for the outfall is approximately one tenth the size of the watershed for Capisic Brook; however, during quick high intensity rain events, the amount of pollution coming from the outfall may be greater. In general, both watersheds are sources of pollution, and efforts by people upstream to reduce the discharge of pollutants will be important to the health of Capisic Pond.

- The impact of the project on existing trees was discussed. The design team has met with the City's Arborist on site to review trees in the area that will be impacted by construction. Likely, only a Norway maple and a honeysuckle bush will be removed to provide construction access. Larches along the stream channel will also be removed in order to complete the stabilization work. The larches will be replaced. Abutters expressed concerns about tree replanting, and requested that larger trees be installed if possible. This will be considered as part of the development of the final landscaping plan.
- Concerns were raised about wet areas on the trail near the bridge. The Design Team will be reviewing the existing trail, and will be making improvements to drainage to help with water in some areas. Near the bridge, the City has already done some work to help alleviate soft areas. Some of the wet areas near the bridge are due to the presence of protected wetlands. These areas cannot be drained or filled to eliminate the wet areas. The Design Team will review these areas further during final design to see if anything more can be done.
- Q: Is there ledge, and will blasting be required to install the stormwater treatment unit?



A: The structure will be installed in-line with an existing stormdrain pipe, but will be approximately 5-feet deeper than the bottom of the pipe. It is not anticipated that ledge will be encountered, and the Design Team will review past design plans for the sewer and stormwater work in this area. If ledge is encountered in the relatively small area of excavation, it will likely be dealt with using equipment, not blasting. The City has regulations regarding construction noise and vibrations, and will manage this aspect of construction to ensure that there is no damage or negative impacts on nearby properties.

- Abutters expressed concerns with contractor behavior based on experiences with the previous Westside Interceptor project. Specific issues include trash and debris thrown into excavations. The City intends to manage contractor behavior during the upcoming projects, and will address trash concerns at meetings held with interested contractors prior to bidding.

Meeting Concluded at 8:30 PM

Notes Recorded By: Lauren Swett and Doug Roncarati