

Notes from Stakeholder Groups

Session 1: 2-3pm

All Team Members + Recreation Committee/Superintendent/DPW (Municipal Courtroom)

Leigh Rodriguez. Director Economic Development
Jenni Reed - Assistant
Meagan Richard - Rec - maintenance along with DPW
John Thompson - Rec
Rick Delorme DPW
Tim Bacon - Super intendent
Beth Laraby -

1. Concerns

1. Bathroom situation? Pumping up or holding tank, water is easy hydrant break off. (Tank, Composting, Seasonal port-a-john)
 1. Camper set up costly 50k min.
 2. Might be grant funded
 3. Parks would maintain permanent bathroom
 1. Washable, cleanable, drains in the floor
 2. Consideration around maintenance weed whacking
 4. Capacity - depends on what happens at the park, traffic, scale of structures.
2. Traffic DOT -
 1. Connectivity with the island across the street
 2. Path under feasibility study
 3. Flooding issues
 4. Common to have entire island under water/ice
3. Parking -
 1. Six spots existing
 2. Sidewalk is narrow
 3. Re-do parking lot to get min 20 spaces
 4. Can the sculptures be moved?
4. Recent Events
 1. School concerts
 2. IGA parking lot contract to lease across the way
 3. Beautiful school concerts - can't hear the traffic - 100's of people in attendance
5. Name
 1. Referred to as Willow Island
 2. Designated as "Canton Island Park" in a contest - family invested in having this name on sign.
6. Utilities
 1. Power existent - Street panel - no problem - new service entrance
 2. Dave - village electrician
 3. Security light on a sensor - LED
 4. New lighting as part of the design
7. Rec concerns
 1. Design for ease of maintenance
 2. Green alternatives pervious pavement - high water table.

3. Keep it simple to mow and weed whack so that it looks great and is easy to maintain - we like the natural look - 6' wide mowers.
8. Children's play area
 1. Concept keep the natural beauty - natural elements for play area Reference-Ives Park in Potsdam and the WILD center in Tupper Lake, both are great examples.
 2. Would go over well, park near the playground.
 3. Concern about playground surrounded by water - child safety
 4. Dangerous water area - strategic location.
 5. Reference - Imagination station at Partridge restaurant in Potsdam.
 6. Place for children to play while adults listen to music.
 7. Woodchips for children's play area. / Artificial turf / sand must be rototilled.
 8. Reference - Taylor Park Beach which is also located on the river and is in a flood zone.
 9. Woodchip consistent with the Heritage side of the island.
9. Stability of the edge of the island - bank erosion - filling in holes 10 feet in from the shore.
 1. Permit to place stone.
 2. DEC likes this use of stone- Michele mentioned this
10. Trees - planting plan for stabilization
 1. Save existing trees.
 2. Forest management plan done - risk tree assessment -all tree inventory - ask Leigh Mapped on GIS and physical report.
 3. Village has agreed with tree committee to plant 4 more trees.
11. Erosion prevention tree and shrub species such as willow.

Session 2: 3-4pm

All Team Members + Tree Committee (Municipal Courtroom)

Richard Grover - 12 years ago declared Tree City USA Chair of committee - advisory committee, no budget or staff. Writes grants for trees. Former director of planning, landscape arch.

Community Forest Plan - LBS ecological (Miguel)

Rick Delorme

1. Concerns/Comments
 1. Undeveloped green space
 2. Trees, shrubs invasive species, buckthorn, honeysuckle
 3. Island lacks shade trees on North/West side
 4. Trees of poor quality - ice damage
 5. Trees are indicators of ice flow when flooding
 6. Trees to abate noise pollution
 7. Decelerating trucks = noise
 8. Unsightly view of the old IGA to the east - trees
 9. Loading up eastern side with conifers, Northern white cedar, Cedar grove on eastern shore
 10. Some deer pressure
 11. Beaver girdled trees - protecting from beaver damage.
 12. Memorial trees - 8-9 years ago memorial trees - George Gibson benefactor - planted trees - Pin oak, catalpa, tulip trees - check tree inventory. Amelanchier George Gibson trees.
 13. Would like to expand memory tree program. Subcommittee to look at memory trees. Ben Buddleman
 14. How does the memory tree program work?

1. NC not just for people but also events. Rescue squads.
2. Canton and Potsdam as sister towns. 4 colleges
15. Integration of memorial trees with plaques.
16. Planting plan - Village of Canton chooses the trees. Native trees. Crack Willow at the point of the island.
17. Equity match - donation of trees.
18. Careful of the # of trees for maintenance - plant 10 trees a year.
19. Removal of damaged trees
20. Trees for Tribes program. – Michele described free trees from the NYSDEC
21. Planting bare-root trees - lends itself to citizen planting.
22. Stones or boulder garden near southern tip of the island. Check trees to see where the ice goes. Partially bury ADK boulders that match the exposed rock in the river. Ice break.
23. Bird habitat - tree and shrub selections in the area Canada Geese opportunity to bring bird life - protected area
24. Erosion protection – removal of invasives - but they are currently holding in the soils. Possibly leave the buckthorn shrub roots in place.
25. 20 feet away from the river. - no chemical usage to kill roots.
26. Consider the maintenance - stage out the plantings.
27. Steve Sherwood - DEC forester
28. Beaver protection might actually help protect trees from the mowers as well.

Session 3: 4-5pm

Group A - GRH (Municipal Courtroom)

Group B - Sustainability Committee (Municipal Courtroom)

Sustainability committee - Pat Alden, Anne

GRH - Anika, Tom, Pete, Varick, Louise

1. Rights of the River Initiative - What does the river want - Anne
2. Flooding and high waters changing the amount of land to do the design on
 1. Mitigation - can't change conditions design to cooperate with the flooding, precedents for river front properties, consideration of materials, location
3. Geese
4. 2017 - intent - develop a shared vision of the future of Willow Island - limited picnic, public sculptures, interactive seasonal recreation.
5. Hurdles - Noise issue heavy traffic use. Corner of Rt 68 / 11 busiest in the county - traffic jams research on decimal levels.
6. Parking - how to introduce more - village and public parking
7. Traffic flow out of the island - will the study include ways of looking at traffic flow and movement - people movement to determine usage constraints.
8. Work with traffic engineers
9. Major construction slowed traffic to a halt, DOT regional office in Watertown did in-depth study of traffic
10. Parking lot on the mainland - can that be leased?
11. Concerts in Bend in the River.
12. Passive Green Space private and public on the same size.
13. Heritage Park (early industrial and natural reliance on the river) has been so successful that we had the idea of creating something of equal success.

14. Sculpture park - visual arts and the performance art.
 1. Compelling to enjoy music with river backdrop
 2. Enhance the downtown - economic driver.
15. A consolidated park with the two properties - management - who is responsible for maintenance. What happens to the concept of ownership - options for maintenance.
16. Shared management - GRH not interested in being the managers of the park.
17. Norwood has a successful concert series - to look into their example. Possible partnerships.
18. Restrooms
 1. Sewer and water are on the opposite side of the street. Temp. Facility port-a-john or a composting toilet.
19. Make sure the river is the focus. Where do you locate the performance space so that people are looking at the river while they enjoy the music. Opportunity for the community to make things happen.
20. Annual festivals - opportunity space.
21. Envisioning the Island - when the dams at the front to the islands were in place great postcards of people skating on that pond. What can happen on the island during the winter?
22. Fire Dept created a public ice rink on the island.
23. Rights of the River People - Anne
24. Complementarity with what happened in Heritage Park - Let the island be an island.
25. Art installations incorporated into the river
26. GRH owners of the private might turn over title to the village - advantages to Partnerships with contractual relationship. Arts org. Contractual agreement.
27. GRH and the village have a very harmonious relationship.
28. Sculpture Park rotation - in the future... Changed out every couple of years at low costs - gift to the community - creates new interest. Possibilities for a commissioned piece in a certain spot.
29. Peter Wycoff - committee for the selection of sculptures.
30. Consider place-based installations - occasional flood and ice events.
31. Andy Goldsworthy Art - ephemeral - Mention of bringing in Patrick Dougherty - Rebecca mentioned local willow artist Bonnie Gale
32. Having clear concept of capacity for performances will help assure people.
33. People drawn to the island to do things having art and music installations that are appreciated best by small groups rather than a performance space. If you want a larger performance space, you have Bend in the River but you lose the connection to the downtown. It's not a bad thing to walk to an event.
34. Playground - not built out of synthetic materials - natural playground. Slope - natural slide - sculptural materials as a playground.
35. Space will get used all the time if designed for small groups, weddings, reunions. Site for teaching space.
36. Bonnie Gale, getting students involved.
37. Sound installation like the one at the WILD center.
38. Nature Up North - Erica Barthelmess

Notes from the Community Meeting

Historian - village naming contest - portion owned by the village **Canton Island Park** - Project covering all of the space thus we are calling the project Willow Island Enhancements.

Civil Engineer - Mark 100 yr. Flood, floods every spring, winter village uses the island to dump snow. 2003 traffic study 16,090 cars avg / day. Mentioned Bend in the River Park as a better option, mentioned the sewer is on the opposite side of bridge. Suggestion to improve signage, ADA compliant bathrooms, Frederick Remington sculpture or H.J. Rushton Canoe 1874-1917 tribute with a water feature rather than abstract art.

Mike Carl-Enhancing Island in its natural state, aware of the 100 yr. Flood. Handicap accessibility, natural playground with interpretive signs. Not good space for performances - however if so, use

portable stage that can be removed and that won't block the view and can be shared with other municipalities. Permanent structures require more maintenance. Vandalism and too much competition of music venue spaces.

Richard Grover - recap of his stakeholder session, traffic and vehicular circulation on island should be considered. Spoke to the foot bridge under the bridge - DOT rejected this as a hazard during high water. People will try parking on Heritage Island but there isn't any safe pedestrian passage from one side to the other. Danger of people wanting to cross the highway - enhance parking availability on Rt 11.

Sean - (Band instructor) The island is an asset and an opportunity - urgent to use space as a benefit to our downtown area. Traffic on Rt. 11 is an opportunity.

Successful event - 100's of people came to music event on the island. Most people parked downtown and walked down. Imagining events of 50-200 people.

Beth - music set up on the edge of the parking lot projecting out toward the southern tip of the island. Traffic in Norwood at their music event is even more noisy. Vandalism problems happen everywhere. Not a saturation for live music.

Leigh - not mutually exclusive Bend in the River enhancements are possible in the future.

Greg - supports building on the natural assets of Canton - walkable community, traffic won't go away - how do we design the community spaces to accommodate this necessary artery through the community.

Matthew Mazzota-Heritage Park holds the past this side of the park holds what's yet to come, our future. A light touch. Canton in our DNA appreciates nature - specializes in transforming theatres. Flooding - structure above with sight lines preserved. See all sides of the water. Designed a theatre - Store Front Theatre closed to traffic during events. Summer might have 8 events - could one lane of main street be closed to make it more walkable? Parking for people less mobile preference in willow park and use of the adjacent lot old Family dollar. Conceptualize past into the future.

Mike - 8-10 performances - board of Remington museum - a well-designed mechanically operated stage so that it can be removed and reverted to a passive green space. Municipal cooperation with small munis that can't afford a stage.

Beth - Noise was not a problem during those school concerts and people did not try to cross the street.

Leigh - work with police department cones lined up at the bike lane to create a wider space for pedestrians to access the island more safely. Event series this becomes a known thing.

Peg McBeth - we might not be able to use the privately owned parking lot (future tire shop) River front property - serious mosquito problem.

Mark - Noise study? Jake brakes

Richard - dismiss the myth that we must build things downtown to revitalize the downtown (rant). Favorable to the idea of a performance space - picked the wrong site. Pro - bend in the river.

Local musician - we have a culture of music with no performance stages - beautiful little park - just build a pad for different performance spaces.

Thought for the board - 500k grant - please consider maintenance of these new spaces - capacity of the village to keep up. Consider improving other spaces.

Matt M. - drawing people together to watch movies - performance space where you can experience the island and the river itself. Done well could be a jewel of the community. Experiential point of view.

Stakeholder group question. Leigh - advisory groups expressed their thoughts outside of this space. Trying to understand where the "big brother" is coming from. (Comment from community member who was unaware of the stakeholder groups)