

MINUTES

Subject:	Community Open House – In Person Hampton Beach State Park Accessibility Feasibility Study GEI Project No. 2403202
Date/Time:	Wednesday, May 30, 2024; 5:30pm to 7:30pm
Location:	HBSP Seashell Building Conference Room
Attendees:	<i>Travis Pryor, PLA – GEI Consultants, Inc., Project Manager</i> <i>Nicole Rogers, P.E. – Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.</i> Consultant Team
Committee / HBSP Staff	<i>Johanna Lyons – NH DNCR, State Park Planning & Development Specialist</i> <i>Pat Bushway – Hampton Beach Area Commission</i>
Public	<i>Chase Eagleson – NH Council on Development Disabilities</i> <i>Katherine Harake – ACLU-NH</i> <i>Rebecca Geekie – Birdability</i>

** Italicized text denotes minutes recorded*

Presentation

GPI gave a project overview presentation including:

- Project team*
- Study background*
- Existing conditions review*
- What we are seeing?*
- What we are hearing?*

General Discussion

GPI noted the purpose of this meeting is to introduce the project to the public and hear from the public about what accessibility improvements they would like to see at HBSP. The following general discussion items were noted:

- When and where will the Pop-Up events be held? Will they be at North, Main and South beaches? Are there volunteer opportunities to assist?*
- The Accessibility Feasibility Study is important to HBSP and to the entire state of New Hampshire.*
- Provide HBSP accessibility information in “Plain Language” for general public education as a possible improvement option.*

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- *During large public gathering events, it is challenging to navigate around the HBSP facilities for all.*
- *Look for opportunities to improve social awareness and behaviors towards accessibility.*
- *HBSP may consider options to do more to make accessibility a priority of others who utilize their facilities (for example the Village District's hosting of events at Main Beach).*
- *There are many events across country with accessibility plans. Is this something HBSP, HBAC and the Chamber of Commerce can implement? – Think about timing, temporary access points, elevated viewing platforms, etc.*
- *It will be important for HBSP to be interactive with the business community and the Chamber in support of accessibility improvement options.*
- *HBSP responded that they are considered the Chamber as a key focus group and collaborator at Hampton Beach. John Nyhan with the Chamber is sharing information about the Accessibility Feasibility Study with the business community.*
- *Would businesses financially support increases in quantity of designated accessible spaces during the off season?*
- *Accessible crosswalk improvements should consider improvements like visual / audio signals using rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFBs) or HAWK signals and accompanying APS audible crossing indications. This is anticipated to be addressed in the NH DOT Ocean Boulevard Improvements project but we can make suggestions to NH DOT as part of the Accessibility Feasibility Study project effort.*
- *Consider designated accessible spaces beyond legally defined "Handicap" parking spaces, to be more universally accommodating to a variety of accessibility user needs.*
- *The Town has tried to operate a local public transit system in the past (40 years ago?). Perceptions were that the system was well used, however other information suggests that it may not have been enough to be economically viable.*
- *Are pedicabs allowed? It is believed that they are.*
- *There is interest in having the NH DOT Ocean Boulevard Improvements consider adding bike lanes and transit lanes.*
- *What is the schedule for the NH DOT Ocean Boulevard Improvements project to begin implementation? 2026 or later?*
- *What might things look like in terms of drop off areas and parking demands on-site if / when autonomous driving becomes readily available? Relocate beach parking to off-site satellite parking lots, creating more room for pedestrian / public gathering spaces at the beaches?*
- *Are there facility reservation systems in place? During the summer the South Beach Campground sites and parking spaces are available for reservation. Parking space reservations were setup during Covid-19 quarantine period.*

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- *General discussion about parking time limits, turnover, and reserving spaces, including for a fee. It was noted that HBSP controls parking spaces and can make changes if desired.*
- *The Chamber is working on a real-time application for community-wide monitoring of parking demand. This information might inform way finding and parking program improvements.*
- *There needs to be more people supporting options for accessibility improvements to make things happen. HBSP, Town of Hampton, general public all hold responsibility.*
- *Look at what Roll Mobile out of Denver, CO is doing to create public awareness of accessibility needs at local businesses there. Are there similar crowd sourcing efforts that HBSP and the surrounding Hampton Beach community could consider?*

Next Steps / Action Items

- *Johanna is available to talk or meet with interested people going forward.*
- *Pop-Up presentations on the boardwalk will be held this summer.*
- *There is a Committee meeting on June 5th to review the findings of the Existing Conditions Assessment.*

The foregoing reflects the writer's understanding of items discussed and conclusions reached. Any discrepancies or misunderstandings should be brought to the attention of the writer immediately. Please forward any comments, errors, or omissions to these meeting notes to Travis Pryor at tpryor@geiconsultants.com.

ACB (GEI)

Nicole Rogers (GPI)