

MEETING MINUTES



11 Middle Street
Saco, Maine 04072
Tel. 207-286-9291
mail@richardsonassociates.com
www.Richardsonassociates.com

Richardson & Associates Landscape Architects

Project: Rockport Harbor Resilience Planning

Date of Meeting: 1/30/2025

Date of Notes: issued for review on 3/13/2025

Meeting: Consultant Team Site Visit & Project Kickoff Mtng

Attendees:

Richardson & Associates (RA):

Todd Richardson

Blake Sanborn

WSP Engineering (WSP):

Todd Coffin

Jackson Coyle

Rockport Representatives (Harbor Strategic Task Force Members & Town Staff):

*Note that the site visit was not required for task force members. The below list captures attendees at the kick off meeting following the site visits:

Bill Bow

Doug Cole

Josh Gerritsen

Brad Scott

Robert Kollmar

Abby Leonard

John Viehman

Sam Temple

1) General Notes and Meeting Summary

- a) Site walk was conducted for the entire project area with attendees from R&A and WSP.
- b) Walker Park visit lead by Bill Bow (Strategic Task Force Chair) aided by several other Task Force members
 - i) Design and engineering consultants walked Walker Park to observe site conditions collect photography to inform site assessment
 - ii) Flood impacts to date were described to the project team
 - iii) Current site uses and programs were outlined

- iv) History of property was shared
- c) Marine Park visit lead by Abbie Leonard (Harbor Master) with input from other Task Force members
 - i) Design and engineering consultants walked the project area end-to-end starting at the Harbor Master building and ending at Main Street. Site observations and site photos were made along the walk
 - ii) Flood impacts to date were described to the project team including overtopping and scour and impacts to structures such as the Harbor Master's Office and the Boat Club.
 - iii) Present harbor operations were outlined. Importance of boat launch ramp and working waterfront infrastructure was stressed
 - iv) Current site uses and programs were outlined: fishing industry, sailing school, boaters, lawn sitters, dog people, beach goers etc
 - v) Special events include winter fireworks, concerts, donut festival, weddings etc
 - vi) Historic assets were discussed including lime kilns
 - vii) Site access was reviewed including entry drive, main street access, Cramer Park stair, ped bridge, boat ramp, gangways and floats. Potential for additional points of access and improved pedestrian connectivity/accessibility were highlighted. Bridge over Goose River to be replaced by Maine DOT with possible sidewalk (outside project area).
 - viii) Potential to enhance public safety through reducing pedestrian/vehicular conflict
 - ix) Key elements of Infrastructure such as the sub-surface pump station near the fishing dock were identified
 - x) Boat club identified as key element of community recreation now threatened by flooding
- 2) Kickoff Meeting at Rockport Opera House
 - a) Introductions
 - i) Strategic Task Force Members and consultant team
 - b) Overview
 - i) Review of project scope
 - ii) Outline of project schedule
 - iii) Review of deliverables
 - c) Base files/background materials
 - i) Already many datapoints shared
 - ii) Need for topo survey highlighted
 - iii) Request for Walker Park survey shared
 - d) Community engagement process discussed
 - i) Task Force Meetings to be available to public and recorded
 - ii) Project web page to be created on Town of Rockport Town website
 - e) Open discussion to get Strategic Task Force input on project
 - i) Many highlighted that initially they do not want a lot of change. Select Board representative encouraged Task Force to use this opportunity to bring forward new ideas before landing on a preferred approach
 - ii) Consider alternate driveway location per traffic study
 - iii) Consider infrastructure (including 3 pump stations)
 - iv) Parking is a key consideration
 - v) Consider raising buildings to preserve function
 - vi) Fuel tank may need secondary containment
 - vii) Consider the highest and best use in the waterfront
 - viii) Consider highest and best use on land
 - ix) Working waterfront grant \$2MM in funding
 - x) Consider power generation
 - xi) Legacy Rockport – fund raising group may consider historic preservation for Lime Kiln(s)

3) Next Steps

- a) WSP to create flood maps and analysis
- b) R&A PM to confirm Project schedule with Town PM
- c) R&A PM to request additional base materials from Town PM
- d) R&A to organize community group survey
- e) R&A to create public engagement event invite
- f) R&A to issue project status update
- g) R&A to start deck for public engagement event 1