

Boardwalk Planning Update

For several years there has been interest expressed in developing a boardwalk along the sound as part of the recreational overlay district. The concept was identified in the Town's Parks and Recreation Plan, and the Town allocated planning funds in the 2013/2014 budget to conduct outreach to key property owners, research environmental permitting, and develop a feasible alignment. To assist in this process, the Board of Commissioners appointed a committee of key stakeholders in February of 2013, and the town has engaged the Coastal Land Trust and Environmental Professionals, Inc. The scope of work for this project includes the following.

Identify Desired Goals and Project Benefits

Identify Concerns, Barriers or Challenges

Develop a preliminary alignment and assist in the securing of easements

Develop Master Plan Recommendations and Tasks for

- Public Outreach
- Action Items and Assignments
- Construction Phasing
- Funding Options, Resources, CIP or Professional Services Requests
- Long term maintenance
- Other needs as identified

Identify Permitting Needs and Costs

- State (CAMA, NCDENR, DWQ, Land Quality)
- Federal (US ARMY Corps of Engineers)
- Local (Building, Zoning)

To date the following activities have taken place.

- Property owners from Sugar Creek Restaurant to Forbes Street have been contacted by letter, in person, or both. Property owners were given opportunities to meet with technical staff and consultants – in some cases multiple times - to discuss how the boardwalk could best interact within their site and to identify any concerns or site specific goals up front. Property owner information and materials have been forwarded on to Attorney Robert Hobbs who will assist in the development of formal easements.
- Environmental Professionals, Inc. has completed a preliminary alignment recommendation based on feedback from property owners, permitting agencies and staff for the area from the Tourism Bureau site at "Windmill Point" north to Forbes Street. Work is continuing from that point south to Sugar Creek (potential trail alignments through the Tanger property, Sugar Creek condominiums, and the "catfish farm," are still under development).
- With completion of the Tourism Board revised site plan, the town and consultants have identified connection points for the possible Boardwalk to the Event site plan, as well as connections to a future multi-use path along US158 as part of a larger comprehensive pedestrian plan network to be developed.
- The Committee has held four meetings and taken a tour of the Duck Boardwalk (summary notes attached).
- Town staff has developed a preliminary alignment plan for committee review based on the inputs from property owners, committee members and environmental considerations. Once the committee has had a chance to review this draft plan and make recommendations, they will be able to provide a full report with recommendations to the Board of Commissioners.