



TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM UPDATE

MEETING SUMMARY

Purpose: Local Waterfront Revitalization Advisory Group (LWRAG) Meeting #2
Date and Time: August 10, 2016 3:30-5:30 pm
Location: Town Hall, Room 101, 445 Delaware Avenue
Attendees: See Attached

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Welcome	Mr. Leslie provided a short meeting introduction, stating that the purpose of the meeting was to review the community outreach plan and delineate the waterfront revitalization area.	N/A
Progress Update	<p>A progress update was provided, by the Project Team, including all that has taken place since the first Local Waterfront Revitalization Advisory Group (LWRAG) meeting.</p> <p>A boat tour took place on June 20, 2016, allowing stakeholders the opportunity to learn about and express issues and opportunities as they apply to the waterfront and project. The LWRAG then shared their thoughts about the boat tour experience. It was noted that the boat tour was a great way to include both residents and business owners in a common discussion, allowing them to exchange a broader knowledge of the Hudson River waterfront. It was also stated that it was interesting to learn about the activity taking place near the Port of Coeymans regarding the Tappan Zee Bridge work.</p> <p>It was noted that it was beneficial for the Port of Albany and the Port of Coeymans to share the work that each facility is involved with. This awareness may ultimately allow conversations to take place that otherwise would not have occurred.</p>	N/A

	<p>There will be other opportunities, such as public meetings, where stakeholders can meet with the Town and the Project Team throughout the project.</p> <p>It was noted that there is currently a permit for anchorage in the Hudson River being reviewed by the US Coast Guard. It is believed this is outside the study area. It will be critical to understand how these actions may interact with proposed and future water uses. Ms. Hakes indicated that this is of importance of the local, state, and federal consistency reviews and that the Project Team will keep this on their radar.</p> <p>The Project Team has initiated the inventory and analysis component of the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) update. The team has begun examining existing documents created for and by the Town as they relate to the waterfront in order to understand existing conditions and opportunities that have previously been outlined.</p>	
<p>Review of the Community Outreach Process and Plan/Discussion for the First Public Meeting Format</p>	<p>The community outreach process and plan will be available on the project website. This document provides an opportunity to gather information from members of the public and stakeholders about the study area. Input received is critical to making informed decisions regarding the study area.</p> <p>The community outreach process and plan has been developed to establish a communication channel between the public, the Town, the LWRAG, applicable regulatory agencies, and the Project Team throughout the LWRP update. This process and plan aims to achieve this communication channel by sharing information with the public regarding the planning process, and by providing occasions for the public to provide input regarding potential issues, concerns, and opportunities.</p> <p>The LWRAG is encouraged to review the document and send all comments to the Town to be passed to MJ for addressing.</p> <p>Section 1 is the introduction. The introduction section provides project background information, identifies the project team, and explains the purpose of the community outreach process and plan.</p> <p>Section 2 includes a description about the waterfront revitalization study area. Please note that this section</p>	<p>LWRAG members to review the Community Outreach Process and Plan. LWRAG to send any comments to the Town. The Town will forward to MJ to revise the document.</p>

	<p>will be modified to reflect the discussion that took place at the meeting.</p> <p>Section 3 lists the scope of work tasks and provides a brief summary of the LWRP program and the New York State Department of State (NYSDOS) review process criteria.</p> <p>Section 4 discusses community participation through a variety of methods. Components of stakeholder outreach include public meetings/workshops, digital outreach, public notice procedures, and informational repositories. The public meetings/workshops section includes four (4) potential public meeting/workshop formats. The Project Team will work with the Town and the LWRAG to identify an appropriate meeting location and format. Meeting participants will have the opportunity to weigh in about issues and opportunities identified, proposed land uses and water uses, and the draft LWRP policies, the proposed laws that will support the implementation of these policies. Additionally, the public will have the opportunity to weigh in on the Henry Hudson Park Master Plan update throughout each public meeting. Digital outreach has been enabled through the use of the project website and social media outlets through the Town.</p> <p>It was noted that it will be important to connect with neighboring communities in order to learn about and understand their business activities. Additionally, by connecting with neighboring communities the Project Team has the ability to share information they have learned.</p> <p>A discussion took place about the consistency review process. It was stated that there are three (3) required levels of review. The levels of review are local, state, and federal.</p> <p>It was stated that the Henry Hudson Park Master Plan update should not only focus on the Park itself, but its other features such as access to the waterfront and access to a pavilion space.</p> <p>The intent of the public meetings/workshops is to draw public input and gain a broader perspective about the project study area. It was noted that it would be beneficial to prompt community participants prior to</p>	<p>The Town to continue reaching out to and meeting with neighboring communities and stakeholders about the LWRP update.</p> <p>MJ to work with the Town to create several prompting questions and public meeting/workshop promotional materials.</p>
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	<p>their meeting attendance in order to generate their own thoughts and feelings about what it being presented. The Project Team and the Town can work together to brainstorm potential prompting questions or “hooks” for the public meetings/workshops. Suggestions included providing the public with a best management practices, or having vignettes.</p> <p>The idea of providing project information at the local farmers market prior to the first public meeting/workshop was also discussed. This would provide an additional listening opportunity for both community members and LWRAG members. In addition, handouts or flyers could be distributed. The LWRAG is supportive of this.</p> <p>Outreach to community committees was identified as an additional method to reach a broader audience that can provide thoughts on the LWRP project. Committees such as the Bike and Pedestrian Mapping Committee and the Delaware Avenue Improvement Group were suggested. This could also help reach both long-time and newer residents. Other community participation may come from outreach to sports-related organizations, such as the Mohawk-Hudson Cycling Club, the Albany Running Exchange, and the Kayaking Club.</p> <p>The format for the first public meeting was also discussed. The Project Team worked with the Town to come up with a suggested format. The public meeting is supposed to take place on Wednesday, October 19th at the Bethlehem Historical Society’s historic school house on River Road and will be an open house-style format.</p> <p>The Project Team also suggested that a “walk and talk” about Henry Hudson Park occur concurrent to the open house to allow community members the chance to identify ideas about the park and communicate them to the Project Team. Information collected specific to Henry Hudson Park, could then be incorporated into hand drawn concept plans for showcasing later in the day. A formal presentation summarizing all that is learned throughout the day is suggested at the close of the open house.</p>	<p>MJ to work with the Town to develop other creative ideas for public meetings and workshop events.</p> <p>MJ to work with the Town to organize timing for the walk and talk/lunch at Henry Hudson Park and solidify any outstanding scheduling and organizing.</p> <p>The Town to check on reserving a table at the Farmers Market for Saturday 10/8 and 10/15.</p> <p>MJ will formalize and draft meeting materials and announcements per the conversation at this LWRAG meeting for the Town, NYS DOS, and the LWRAG to review.</p>
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First Public Meeting Feedback

The LWRAG provided helpful insight regarding the meeting layout.

- The LWRAG liked the location choice for the meeting, stating that it is located within the study area and could capture community members driving by the school house.
- It was noted that the timing of the walk and talk through Henry Hudson Park will be important. Suggestions included an earlier morning time or during lunch time.
- The Town, Project Team, and LWRAG members agreed that distributing information about the first public meeting/workshop at the local farmers' market would be very beneficial. The Town will inquire with the farmers' market about this.
- There should definitely be a formal presentation to take place no earlier than 6:30PM. This presentation would include input and ideas received throughout the open house event.

Specifics and final format for the first public meeting will be confirmed. Meeting notices and outreach will occur closer to the meeting date (10/19/16).

LWRAG General Public Outreach Input

- It was noted, as the project continues, to move the meeting/workshop location around the Town to community venues such as the firehouse and the high school.
- Another way to distribute information may be through the local school districts.
- Bethlehem is a unique Hudson River town. The meetings/workshop should therefore be a celebration of the Town's connection to the waterfront.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At the meeting there will be kid's corner, allowing children to participate and draw their ideas for the community. ▪ Another suggestion made included providing transportation from Town Hall to the meeting venue to increase participation. 	
<p>Delineation of the Waterfront Revitalization Study Area</p>	<p>The delineation of the project's waterfront revitalization study area is important because this becomes the area of study for the LWRP update. If the boundary is modified as part of this process and the LWRP is approved, the boundary is then formally modified and becomes the new coastal boundary. State permitting, funding, and direct actions must be consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with an approved LWRP. Within the federally defined coastal area, federal agency activities are also required to be consistent with an approved LWRP.</p> <p>There are four (4) criteria to consider for revising the coastal boundary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It should include land uses that affect or are affected by waterfront issues and opportunities. 2. It should include natural and cultural resources with a physical, social, visual or economic relationship to the waterfront. 3. It should include areas necessary for the achievement of policies in the LWRP. 4. It should follow recognizable natural or cultural features, such as streets or railroads. <p>Three maps were created by the Project Team illustrating the existing coastal boundary, the 2010 proposed coastal boundary, and the 2016 proposed coastal boundary. The 2010 proposed coastal boundary extended just east of I-87, not including I-87. The 2016 proposed coastal boundary extends just west of I-87, including I-87.</p> <p>A question arose regarding the impact of the coastal boundary on private property owners. If a private property owner were to undertake an action within the LWRP boundary, they would be subject to all local laws and regulations (as they are currently). If the LWRP is adopted, it may become necessary for the property owner to complete the consistency form. This would be</p>	<p>MJ to adjust the 2016 proposed waterfront revitalization study area map to make the boundary line more visible.</p>

	<p>dependent on the type of action. Overall, the intent of the LWRP is not to be cumbersome for private property owners, but to protect the waterfront and Town vision for the waterfront.</p> <p>The delineation of the waterfront revitalization study area will be accompanied by a justification for its selection. The LWRAG agreed that this justification should include information related to environmental features (natural and physical) and comprehensive plan consistency in order to aid in the protection of the waterfront and the adjacent properties.</p> <p>The LWRAG offered insight and suggestions as to why the 2016 proposed boundary would be appropriate. Insights discussed include expanding access to the riverfront, potential growth within the Town, the thruway is a natural boundary line, there is minimal splitting of parcels, and there is the ability to implement stormwater management practices.</p> <p>The 2016 proposed boundary was agreed on as being the selected waterfront revitalization study area in which the LWRP update will proceed with. There were a variety of elements contributing to this selection, as noted in the previous paragraph. Additionally, the LWRAG will also be providing additional thoughts on boundary justification.</p>	<p>LWRAG to send the Town the components to be included within the justification.</p>
<p>Next Steps</p>	<p>The next LWRAG meeting will take place prior to the first public meeting/workshop in late September or early October. It will include a presentation of findings for the inventory and analysis and a discussion of Henry Hudson park. The LWRAG should be prepared to discuss areas of focus for the Henry Hudson Park Master Plan update.</p>	<p>MJ to continue working on the Inventory and Analysis (Task 9) now that the 2016 proposed waterfront revitalization area has been confirmed by the LWRAG.</p> <p>MJ to work with Town to prepare the materials for the first public meeting.</p> <p>MJ to develop LWRAG Meeting #2 summary.</p> <p>Town to utilize a doodle poll to schedule the next LWRAG meeting.</p>

This meeting summary conveys our understanding of the items discussed and agreements reached at this meeting. Please forward any additions, corrections and/or questions to my attention.

Submitted by:

Kristen Gaynor
Planner

cc: Town of Bethlehem Planning Division Staff, Local Waterfront Revitalization Advisory Group (LWRAG),
New York State Department of State (NYS DOS) Representative, File

For additional project information, please visit the following link:

<http://www.townofbethlehem.org/746/Local-Waterfront-Revitalization-Advisory>



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 August 10, 2016
 Town Hall, Room 101, 445 Delaware Avenue

Please sign in

Name	Affiliation	Email
Peter Thomas	LWRA	peter@enform.info
Joan Garrilik	Friends of Bethlehem Parks & Recreation	jsq85@aol.com
Maureen Cunningham	Hudson River Watershed Alliance Delmar resident	mcunningham@hudsonwatershed.org
Joann Dawson		jvdaws@gmail.com
Charlotte Buchanan	Hudson River Resident	charlotte.buchanan@gmail.com
Sam Messina	Former Bethlehem Supervisor	SMESSIN3@VERIZON.NET
Lisa Evans	MHLC, River front resident	llevans@aol.com
David Van Loven	Town Board	dvanloven@townofbethlehem.org
Ann Marie Morin	Glennmont Job Corps Center	am.morin@glennmont.com
Mark Poole	Innovative Service Solutions	markpoole@innovativecompany.com



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Name	Affiliation	Email
Jackie Hakes	MT Engineering	jhakes@mjels.com
Kristen Gaynor	MT Engineering	kgaynor@mjels.com
Robert Leslie	Town of Bethlehem	rleslie@townofbethlehem.org
Elizabeth Staubach	Town of Bethlehem	estaubach@townofbethlehem.org
Kathleen Reid	Town of Bethlehem	kreid@townofbethlehem.org