



# TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

## LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM UPDATE

### MEETING SUMMARY

**Purpose:** LWRP Update - Public Workshop #1  
**Date and Time:** October 19, 2016 11:00 am - 8:00 pm  
**Location:** Cedar Hill Schoolhouse, 1003 River Road  
**Attendees:** See Attachment A

Agenda Item	Discussion
<p><b>Overview</b></p>	<p>On Wednesday, October 19, 2016 the Town of Bethlehem held the first public workshop event for the Town of Bethlehem LWRP Update and Henry Hudson Park Master Plan Update. The public workshop involved multiple activities including a day long open house and a concurrent Walk and Talk event at the Henry Hudson Park. The open house was held from 11:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Cedar Hill Schoolhouse at 1003 River Road within the proposed waterfront revitalization area (WRA). Over 35 residents, property owners, and other stakeholders participated in the event (see <b>Attachment A</b> for sign-in sheets).</p> <p>The open house included a series of activity stations that introduced the project and gathered information about needs and opportunities within the waterfront revitalization area. The open house concluded with a formal presentation outlining the project and summarizing input gathered during the open house. The overall workshop schedule follows:</p> <p>11:00 PM to 7:00 PM – Open House            12:00 PM to 1:00 PM – Henry Hudson Park Walk and Talk            7:00 PM to 8:00 PM – Presentation/Open House</p>
<p><b>Open House Activity Stations</b></p>	<p>The open house component of the event allowed participants to informally walk through seven (7) activity stations to learn about the project at their own pace and provide their input and ideas. A Participant Guide was provided to attendees to guide them through the stations. (See <b>Attachment B</b> for Participant Guide) The seven (7) activity stations included:</p> <p>Station 1: About the Project            Station 2: Waterfront Revitalization Area Boundary            Station 3: What’s your Vision?            Station 4: Existing Conditions            Station 5: Needs/Challenges</p>

Station 6: Opportunities/Ideas  
Station 7: Henry Hudson Park Master Plan Update

Additionally, participants had the opportunity to speak with Town staff and the Project Team, share written ideas and/or comments on comment cards and ask questions during and after the presentation. Following is a description of each station and the input received.

Activity Station 1: About the Project

This station provided information about the LWRP Update. The board displayed at this station provided an overview of the program as well as its intended purpose and outcome.

Activity Station 2: Waterfront Revitalization Area

This station provided a review of the existing and proposed waterfront revitalization area boundaries. Participants had the opportunity to share their thoughts about the proposed waterfront revitalization area boundary and identify items on the map. Responses received related to the prompt are listed below:

- You should limit the boundary to the coastal area; don't call it a "Waterfront Revitalization" if 2/3 of the boundary or more is not even within the Coastal Area Boundary
- You should focus on the Waterfront and not dilute it with areas beyond the Coastal Area Boundary

Activity Station 3: What's your Vision?

The vision station provided an opportunity for participants to share their vision for the waterfront. Participants had the opportunity to share their vision on the station board. Responses received related to the prompt "Tell us more about your waterfront vision! In 10 to 20 years, what is happening in your waterfront?" are listed below:

- Smart development (where appropriate)
- Open space protection (where appropriate)
- Access – land and water
- Preserve existing bird habitat
- Development where appropriate – Albany City limit to N. of Van Wies Point only
- Preserve the undeveloped nature of rest of riverfront
- There is a lot of invasive plant species that are out competing native species. Increased deer pressure contributing. Reversing this trend in some of the wilder habitat would be great project for kids and students interested in ecology.
- Finding innovative ways to help farmers stay in business.
- Preservation of historic sites.
- Protect dead end streets. No connecting to large sprawling development.

Additional ideas were collected at this station through the use of a photo station.

Participants were asked to write down a few words about their vision for the waterfront and a photo was taken of the participant holding the whiteboard to share their vision. Visions expressed through this exercise include:

- A peaceful refuge for all ages
- Enjoy our river
- Preserve the beautiful habitat for all to observe and enjoy

#### Activity Station 4: Existing Conditions

This station provided an overview of the current conditions and resources within the proposed waterfront revitalization area. The station included two (2) boards with maps of the following existing conditions:

- Land Use
- Zoning
- Agricultural Districts and Farmland Soils
- Sensitive Environmental Features
- Open Space and Recreational Resources
- Historic, Cultural, and Archeological Sites

#### Activity Station 5: Needs/Challenges

This station encouraged participants to share their insight about the needs or challenges of the waterfront revitalization area. Responses related to the prompt “What are the most significant needs or challenges within the waterfront revitalization area?” are listed below:

- Will this affect the water table in the neighboring hamlets?
- Consideration of rising river levels through coming years?
- Wildlife needs to be protected/considered
- Invasive plants need to be removed – native plant habitats restored.
- Deer population needs to be reduced to allow restoration of native plants and forest areas to bring back wildlife and maintain diverse bird life currently here.
- Preserving historic sites.
- Better access
- Sewer plant?
- View shed

#### Activity Station 6: Opportunities/Ideas

The opportunities and ideas station encouraged participants to share opportunities or ideas for the waterfront revitalization area. Responses related to the prompt “What are the greatest opportunities and ideas for the waterfront revitalization area?” are listed below:

- Nature and bike trails
- Family recreation areas
- Restaurants on the river
- Preservation of pastoral views – no commercial development south of Van

Wies Point

- Habitat restoration using native trees/shrubs/plants
- Museum of History of the River – Mohican, Dutch/English
- Small scale brewing operation using locally sourced farm products

Additional challenges and opportunities were identified by participants on a map of the proposed waterfront revitalization area. Many of the ideas shared were related to the Henry Hudson Park. Participants used markers and post-its to share the following ideas:

- Yoga and exercise platforms
- Featuring native plants to educate public on their importance
- Wetland boardwalks
- Butterfly exhibit for kids w/ native plants
- Dog areas
- Provide rental bike stands
- Garden plots – rice paddies. Cranberries.
- Lovely restaurant/event venue by river
- Protect vital agricultural lands – limit housing development
- Under water views – periscope?
- Wetlands and historic stations (tidal info)
- Sculpture exhibits visiting and permanent
- Wildlife exhibit for kids
- Overlook platforms for viewers and artists with telescopes
- More picnic areas
- Artwork by school children to bridge the gap between Delmar to riverfront – to be placed in play area and walkways
- Lean-tos for overnight camping and storm refuge
- Ramadas for musicians with electrical outlets
- 130 bird species documented near H.H.P. important habitat
- Dog Park or at least dogs allowed on leash
- Restricted commercial development
- Plant i.d. labels
- Add road to kayak launch
- History trail including BHA schoolhouse
- Water fountains (dogs)
- Kayak rental or row boat
- No condos/high rises
- No more buildings
- What is this 2016 bump out at exit 22 off Interstate 87?
- Barent Winne Road north past Lyons Road becomes a dead end. Maps should be edited to reflect this.
- Parsuns Road off of River Road (Route 144) was identified as Private Road. Maps should be edited to reflect this.
- Straighten out Barent Winne Road where Barent Winne Road meets Route 144 – hard for boat traffic – fire hydrant had to be moved

	<p><u>Activity Station 7: Henry Hudson Park Master Plan Update</u></p> <p>At this station, participants were requested to review the existing amenities at the Henry Hudson Park identified on the map provided. The station was intended to supplement the Walk and Talk event. Participants were prompted to identify what they like, dislike or would like to see improved or included in Henry Hudson Park. Ideas gathered at this station included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Access at River Rd. Poor signage (near gateway)</li> <li>▪ Barent Winne before Lyons needs less curves – for boats</li> <li>▪ Roadway (Lyons) needs to be improved steep hill heading down to park/blind spots</li> <li>▪ Trails rather than road thru</li> <li>▪ Bulk head repair</li> <li>▪ People watch river from road need to keep a great respite</li> <li>▪ Stop sign should be mandatory in parking lot crossway to playground</li> <li>▪ Pavilion tables need to be replaced or updated</li> <li>▪ Trail to the south across Vloman Kill</li> <li>▪ Kayak drop off for launch</li> <li>▪ Connect to Scenic Hudson trail across Vloman Kill</li> <li>▪ Sink/move power lines with road movement - existing lights, poles, lines, utilities</li> </ul>
<p><b>Input Provided on Written Comment Cards</b></p>	<p>In addition to gathering input via maps and station boards, participants had the opportunity to provide input on written comment forms. Below is a list of written comments provided on comment cards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Food trucks and boat rental on peak days</li> <li>▪ Connect trail to Moh-He-Con-Nuck Preserve</li> <li>▪ Keep 2-way road in park</li> <li>▪ Don't move pavilion too close to river because it's windy closer to river</li> <li>▪ Keep the fence so parents don't have to worry about their kids falling in the water</li> <li>▪ There are four key areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Town</li> <li>▪ The Waterfront Area</li> <li>▪ The Coastal Boundary Area</li> <li>▪ HH Park</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>All pop up in presentations but virtually no one understands their inter-relationship. A cheat sheet is needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There will likely be a movement evolving that sees the LWRP as more aggressive over-regulation in Bethlehem. Be prepared. In several weeks, lots of people will be seeking a way to vent less-government anger</li> <li>▪ The presentation maps show poorly on less than photo gloss paper and have about 5x too much information for most citizens. They need to be replaced by very sparse renderings that show at most one extra "level"</li> <li>▪ The HH Park work is personal and touchable. It therefore assumes a status as the bulk of the LWRP work. Is it at all possible to have separate sessions?</li> </ul>

<p><b>Verbal Input Provided to Project Team</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ravena News Herald may be a good publication to market project meetings and events.</li> <li>▪ Identify Frothingham Lake on the maps</li> <li>▪ Self-guided history tour starting at the Henry Hudson Park</li> <li>▪ Historic Kayak Tour guided by Town Historian</li> <li>▪ Trails/Privacy</li> <li>▪ Stockbridge Munsee Tribal Preservation should be contacted for consultations</li> <li>▪ Mosquitoes in Henry Hudson Park – may be addressed with bat boxes, light design etc.</li> <li>▪ Senior citizen forum to learn about the history of the area</li> <li>▪ Speed limit entering the park is of concern</li> <li>▪ Crosswalk or stop sign between pavilion and playground at Henry Hudson Park</li> <li>▪ Associate more with “Hudson Valley” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Branding issue?</li> <li>▪ Regional Economic Development Council issue?</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Access river from Moh-He-Con-Nuck <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ At least have views of river</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Boat house or boat storage area by kayak launch</li> <li>▪ Biological assessment of sea level rise/warmer water – impact in fishing/access numbers related to fishing</li> <li>▪ E-bird can be used as a resource for the bird species that have been identified in Henry Hudson Park.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Henry Hudson Park Walk and Talk</b></p>	<p>The Henry Hudson Park Walk and Talk event took place from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. Ian Law, Principal at PLACE Alliance led the event. Walk and Talk attendees shared comments, concerns and ideas while walking through the Park. PLACE Alliance responded to comments and ideas by sharing recommendations and potential solutions with members of the community. Ideas generated during the event included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ While still considering existing local users, we must attract regional visitors -If the park is a great experience for visitor, the more people will like it, the more people will use it and the more money the town may invest</li> <li>▪ Access to Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Speeds too high on River Road</li> <li>- The park is great when you are there, but to get there is difficult</li> <li>- Additional Entry Signage on River Road and down Lyons Road</li> <li>- Create a gateway from Cedar Hill School House to Park and reduce speeds through this gateway</li> <li>- Create subtle bends on Lyons Road to slow traffic</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Supply a more direct kayak drop off</li> <li>▪ Incorporate Natural and Historical Interpretive Signage</li> <li>▪ Supply More Bicycle Amenities</li> <li>▪ Natural Playgrounds &amp; Low Ropes Course</li> <li>▪ Nature Themed Park</li> <li>▪ Increase the Opportunity for Potential Wedding Venue</li> <li>▪ Compare local parks to ensure uniqueness of Henry Hudson Park</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Only park on the river</li> <li>▪ Kayak/canoe Rental, Guided and self-guided tours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Guide Paddlers Waterfall up Vloman-Kill</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Local Food Trucks</li> <li>▪ Potential shoreline easement to the Moh-He-Con-Nuck</li> <li>▪ Consider an alternative to fence but ensure extra security around children’s play areas</li> <li>▪ Ensure the phasing of the shoreline stabilization coexists with the design and construction phasing</li> <li>▪ Create visual ques along the park to serve as focal points</li> <li>▪ The short-term plan must overlay appropriately with the long-term plan</li> <li>▪ Plans must consider potential expansion and parcel acquisition</li> </ul> <p>Following the Walk and Talk event, the PLACE Alliance team worked on transferring the ideas generated during the event onto paper to provide a visual representation. The drawings produced by PLACE Alliance were shared with the public during the evening presentation.</p>
<p><b>Workshop Presentation</b></p>	<p>The presentation included a welcome introduction by John Clarkson, Town Supervisor. Project Manager, Jaclyn Hakes from MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C. (MJ) introduced the advisory committee and project team. Ms. Hakes lead an overview of the LWRP program, project goals, scope, process, and schedule and summarized the input received during the first part of the open house. The presentation also included a review of the next steps for the project.</p> <p>PLACE Alliance presented the draft concept plan for Henry Hudson Park, based on input received at the Walk and Talk and LWRAG input.</p> <p>Landscape Architect and Community Designer, Ian Law presented the work he and his design team conducted. Mr. Law began by discussing the park in its regional context within Bethlehem. He also explained the extent of the parks acreage (55 acres) and how little the park is currently utilizing (14 acres). An overview of existing site conditions of the parking area, experience throughout the park, shoreline, existing site amenities, and the forested wetland were discussed. Key design considerations were presented along with the conceptual plans that the team had produced after the Walk and Talk with residents earlier that day. The design discussion was paired with images of precedential conceptual ideas.</p> <p>The complete PowerPoint is available in <b>Attachment C</b>.</p> <p>Attendees were encouraged to visit the activity stations after the presentation to provide input and share their ideas.</p> <p>Following the presentation, participants were provided the opportunity to ask questions or share comments. Below is a list of the questions and comments expressed during the Q&amp;A session of the presentation.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A concern was raised about the boundary and why it includes land beyond the riverfront.</li> <li>▪ The sewer plant is the biggest stumbling block to expanding the park. It needs to be upgraded or removed.</li> <li>▪ Can you describe the benefits of an LWRP in terms of grant funding?</li> <li>▪ A concern was raised about a focus on plans for just one park within a large boundary and what was planned for the rest of the boundary area.</li> <li>▪ What changes are proposed to zoning?</li> </ul>
<b>Next Steps</b>	<p>Next steps for the project include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Summarize public input from workshop</li> <li>▪ Schedule LWRAG meeting #4</li> <li>▪ Confirm/Refine the waterfront revitalization area boundary</li> <li>▪ Discuss the State Coastal Policies</li> <li>▪ Next public meeting anticipated to occur in early 2017</li> </ul>

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:

Ame Bucher/Kristen Gaynor  
MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C.

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>

**Attachment A**

Town of Bethlehem  
LWRP Update  
Public Workshop #1 Sign-In Sheets

Town of BETHLEHEM  
**LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM UPDATE**

Public Workshop #1  
 October 19, 2016  
 11:00 am – 8:00 pm  
 Cedar Hill Schoolhouse  
 1003 River Road, Selkirk

Please Sign In

Name	Affiliation	Email
Doris Davis	Town of Bethlehem Board Member	DDavis@townofbethlehem.org
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Joann Dawson	Fmr TOB Board Member	
John Sasso	TOB Board member	
Susan Thiel	Resident	
Nan Hanahan	TOB Parks & Rec	
Howard Vogelz	Resident	kelliwitez@aol.com
Kelly Blodgett	"	



Town of BETHLEHEM  
**LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM UPDATE**

Public Workshop #1  
 October 19, 2016  
 11:00 am – 8:00 pm  
 Cedar Hill Schoolhouse  
 1003 River Road, Selkirk

Please Sign In

Name	Affiliation	Email
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Jean C. Powell / T. Julien	Residents	
Steve Redler	Both Resident	
Lisa Evans	Beth Hist	llejans7@aol.com
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Department of State



Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C.



Town of BETHLEHEM  
**LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM UPDATE**

Public Workshop #1  
 October 19, 2016  
 11:00 am – 8:00 pm  
 Cedar Hill Schoolhouse  
 1003 River Road, Selkirk

Please Sign In

Name	Affiliation	Email
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Michael, Susana Michael Jr.	Resident	



Department of State



Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C.



Town of BETHLEHEM  
**LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM UPDATE**

Public Workshop #1  
 October 19, 2016  
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 Cedar Hill Schoolhouse  
 1003 River Road, Selkirk

Please Sign In

Name	Affiliation	Email
Elizabeth Staubach	Town of Bethlehem	
Jackie Hakes	MJ Engineering	
Kristen Gaynor	MJ Engineering	
Ame Bucher	MJ Engineering	
Ian Law	PLACE Alliance	
Mike Frederick	PLACE Alliance	
Kim Case	PLACE Alliance	
Rob Leslie	Town of Bethlehem	
John Clarkson	Town of Bethlehem	



Department of State



Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C.



**Attachment B**

Town of Bethlehem  
LWRP Update  
Public Workshop #1 Participant Guide

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

# LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM UPDATE (LWRP) & HENRY HUDSON PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE – PARTICIPANT GUIDE  
OCTOBER 19, 2016

**Welcome! Share your ideas and help shape the future of the Bethlehem waterfront. Please provide your input at one or more of the activity stations. If you have questions about an activity, just ask a member of the project team!**

## ACTIVITY STATIONS:

### WELCOME TABLE

Sign in and pick up a participant guide.

### #1 – ABOUT THE PROJECT

Learn about the LWRP program and this project.

### #2 – WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION AREA

Review the existing and proposed waterfront revitalization area boundary.

### #3 – WHAT'S YOUR VISION?

Describe your vision for the future of the waterfront area.

### #4 – EXISTING CONDITIONS

Discover current waterfront conditions and resources.

### #5 – NEEDS/CHALLENGES

Identify needs or challenges you see in the waterfront area.

### #6 – OPPORTUNITIES/IDEAS

Share your ideas about potential projects and opportunities.

### #7 – HENRY HUDSON PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Share your ideas on park improvements and programming.



### FIND OUT MORE AT:

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM  
[WWW.TOWNOFBETHLEHEM.ORG](http://WWW.TOWNOFBETHLEHEM.ORG)

GO TO THE LOCAL WATERFRONT  
REVITALIZATION ADVISORY PAGE

Questions and comments about this project can be directed to:  
[LWRP@townofbethlehem.org](mailto:LWRP@townofbethlehem.org)

