



# TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

## LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM UPDATE

### MEETING SUMMARY

**Purpose:** Kick-Off Meeting (LWRAG Meeting #1)  
**Date and Time:** June 14, 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 project introduction and thanked those in attendance for being a part of the project's Local Waterfront Revitalization Advisory Group (LWRAG).	N/A
Introductions, Issues, and Opportunities	<p>Ms. Hakes introduced the project team, MJ Engineering and Land Surveying (MJ) and Place Alliance. The project team will assist the Town to complete the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) in accordance with New York State Department of State (NYS DOS) requirements.</p> <p>Each LWRAG member was asked to share biggest issue/concern for the study area and biggest/best opportunity for the study area.</p> <p>In no particular order, the following is a list of issues/concerns identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Need to make a good impression</li> <li>▪ Deteriorating shoreline creating dangerous situations</li> <li>▪ Ability to connect with neighboring/regional communities</li> <li>▪ Accessing the Hudson River and connecting the rest of the Town to Hudson River</li> <li>▪ Most residents have a closer connection with the Thruway</li> <li>▪ Flooding not only associated with sea level rise,</li> </ul>	N/A

	<p>but storm surge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improve ability to implement the LWRP, so the document is not shelved</li> <li>▪ Climate change impacts including sea level rise</li> <li>▪ There are 10 miles of riverfront property along the project area – potential for a number of threats</li> <li>▪ The need for smart growth within the study area</li> <li>▪ Not only local, but also a state and federal document</li> <li>▪ Recognition by others of the immense opportunities within this study before the Town pursues opportunities</li> <li>▪ Town is currently vulnerable to unwanted development</li> <li>▪ Long term planning that protects the Hudson River</li> <li>▪ Awareness of Hudson River as an asset</li> <li>▪ Lack of implementation due to political or fiscal reasons</li> </ul> <p>In no particular order, the following is a list of biggest/best opportunities identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ability to create a physically attractive place</li> <li>▪ Updating the Henry Hudson Park Master Plan to help make the park a more attractive place</li> <li>▪ Great opportunity to connect with other local communities</li> <li>▪ Ability to develop an integrated plan</li> <li>▪ 10 miles of waterfront is the greatest asset</li> <li>▪ Ability to develop a plan that can be implemented</li> <li>▪ People resources within the LWRAG is a great opportunity</li> <li>▪ The update is a significant opportunity for the Town and LWRAG</li> <li>▪ Opportunity to propose concrete projects and not only recommendations</li> <li>▪ Opportunity to protect the Hudson River</li> <li>▪ Ability to be consistent with issues identified in the comprehensive plan</li> <li>▪ Ability to continue to encourage mixed use</li> <li>▪ Ability to identify more recreational and housing opportunities</li> <li>▪ Ability to identify more bicycling opportunities</li> </ul> <p>Ms. Hakes noted that she was involved with the development of the Town’s current Comprehensive Plan and that it is great to see that the Town is utilizing the document and moving forward proactively.</p>	
--	---	--

	<p>The project team feels strongly about action-oriented planning and planning that is reality based.</p> <p>The meeting agenda was introduced. It was noted that Scenic Hudson will be providing information to the project team regarding the resiliency component of the LWRP update. Scenic Hudson involvement is volunteered.</p>	
LWRP Program Overview	<p>The LWRP is administered by the New York State Department of State (NYS DOT) per NYS Executive Law Article 42. This program is intended to guide the future of waterfront communities, while promoting balance of natural resource preservation, population growth and economic development.</p> <p>The program has been developed in a way that strongly reflects community consensus, while aligning local plans and programs. It also allows communities to establish clear direction for appropriate future development and a step-by-step process for implementation. The LWRP is also supported by long term partnerships.</p> <p>A discussion about implementation funding took place. The LWRP update will include a list of recommended technical resources and funding resources. The Town will be responsible for seeking funding to implement projects proposed within the document. It was noted that most projects will likely need to go through the Regional Economic Development Council's (REDC) Consolidated Funding Application process for funding. Therefore, it is important to be strategic about which projects are recommended in order to obtain funding for implementation.</p> <p>It was noted that the recommended projects will likely range from substantial to lower cost projects that may be completed in house by Town staff, as appropriate. The Town will become more competitive for funding by having an adopted LWRP plan.</p>	N/A
Project Overview	<p>The project will include updating the existing 2010 LWRP document over a proposed 14-15 month process. The timing of the project may become dependent on state review periods. The project team is committed to keeping the project moving forward.</p> <p>The project team will create a community outreach and engagement plan, evaluate existing conditions, identify opportunities, and work with the community to develop recommendations and strategies.</p>	N/A

	<p>As a result of this project several goals are expected to be addressed. These goals include encouraging new economic activity, improving public access, increasing recreational use of the river, protecting and restoring natural resources, addressing climate change, evaluating water level in relation to development, and supporting sustainability and resiliency. The project team noted that having a wide range of goals requires significant balance.</p> <p>The LWRAG discussed the meaning of public access, noting that perhaps there is one road that becomes the gateway to the Hudson River. In addition, Scenic Hudson encouraged the LWRAG to think about access in many ways, including along the Hudson River, to the river, visual access and appearance of the community from the river.</p>	
<p>Project Scope and Process</p>	<p>The project scope and process were reviewed. Tasks 1 through 5 are administrative tasks being handled by the Town.</p> <p>Task 6: Project Meeting/Kick-Off Task 6 includes a meeting with the Town and LWRAG to provide an overview of the project, roles and responsibilities, the preliminary delineation of the waterfront revitalization area, and next steps.</p> <p>Task 7: Community Outreach Task 7 includes the preparation of a community outreach method and process, identifying key players, and the visioning process.</p> <p>Task 8: Define Boundary Task 8 includes potentially amending the study area boundary, providing narrative updates, creating revised map(s), and providing an explanation for inclusion of potential new areas.</p> <p>It was noted that the study area identified in the 2010 document extends beyond the state coastal boundary. NYS DOS is to review projects for consistency within the state coastal boundary. The project team noted that the LWRP process, beyond the study area, will look at connections and projects that support revitalization of the study area.</p> <p>Task 9: Inventory and Analysis Task 9 includes an inventory and analysis of the natural and built environment, issues, opportunities, and constraints, resource protection, assessment of potential</p>	

	<p>risks, consideration of local and regional plans, and mapping.</p> <p>It was noted that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) and the Hudson River Estuary are completing a natural resource inventory. This information will be shared with the Town and the project team. Scenic Hudson noted that the deadline for this project may be extended, as surveys are dependent on the spring season.</p> <p>It was noted that the LWRAG may want to consider extending the waterfront boundary just west of the Thruway to provide more input on the pilgrim pipeline project.</p> <p><b>Task 10: Public Meeting #1</b> Task 10 includes holding a public meeting to gather initial input about the waterfront.</p> <p><b>Task 11: Policy Updates</b> Task 11 includes updating and refining the applicable state waterfront policies, including specific local standards, explaining proposed land and water uses, and determining additional policies.</p> <p>A discussion took place about which set of policies should be utilized. A discussion will occur between the project team, the Town, and NYS DOS about approach after the committee meeting.</p> <p>A discussion took place about whether or not the policies covered homeland security issues. The project team explained that the policies are more aligned with protecting economic development, the built environment, and the natural environment.</p> <p><b>Task 12: Proposed Uses and Projects</b> Task 12 includes the proposal of proposed land uses, water uses, and projects. Mapping will accompany these proposed uses and projects.</p> <p><b>Task: 13: Public Meeting #2</b> Task 13 includes a presentation of issues and opportunities, a discussion of proposed land and water uses and proposed projects, and public input.</p>	<p>Scenic Hudson to communicate timeline to MJ and Town, as information becomes available.</p> <p>MJ/Town/NYSDOS to schedule a call to discuss which policy approach to use for this project.</p>
--	--	---

	<p><b>Task: 14: Local Implementation Techniques</b>  Task 14 includes a review of existing local laws and regulations, providing recommended local laws and regulations, describing a local management structure for review of proposed projects, describing necessary public and private sector actions, and describing financial resource requirements.</p> <p><b>Task: 15: Public Meeting #3</b>  Task 15 includes a presentation of the Draft LWRP, a presentation of proposed laws, and public input.</p> <p><b>Task 16: Federal-State Actions and Programs</b>  Task 16 includes reviewing a list of federal and state agency actions and programs, and determining actions necessary for LWRP implementation.</p> <p><b>Task 17: Local Commitment and Consultation</b>  Task 17 includes public consultation efforts, creating a local committee to oversee LWRP preparation, and providing roles for any other necessary municipal agencies.</p> <p><b>Task 18: SEQRA Compliance</b>  Task 18 includes completing a Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF) and completing the determination of significance (determining positive declaration or negative declaration). If a positive declaration is issued, the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) may be needed.</p> <p><b>Task 19: Draft LWRP</b>  Task 19 includes preparation of a preliminary Draft LWRP document, harbor management elements, DGEIS (if applicable), NYS DOS Departmental Review, re-submission to NYS DOS.</p> <p>A discussion took place regarding the harbor management elements component of this task. NYS DOS stated that harbor management elements have to do with water uses. The project team noted that the document will address how the land uses and water uses relate.</p> <p>A discussion took place about NYS DOS’s involvement throughout the project. NYS DOS will be involved throughout the entire process in order to avoid issues prior to submission of the Draft for review.</p>	
--	--	--

	<p>Task 20: Final Public Hearing/Meeting (Public Meeting #4) Task 20 includes a public hearing/meeting on the Draft LWRP and the identification of document changes.</p> <p>Task 21: Final LWRP Amendment Task 21 includes determining a schedule of adoption and producing the final LWRP reflecting comments received.</p> <p>Task 22: Henry Hudson Park Master Plan Update Task 22 includes updating the existing Henry Hudson Master Plan, providing recommendations for addressing issues, determining project prioritization, financing strategies, and implementation strategies. Project team member, Place Alliance, will be the task lead for the Master Plan Update.</p> <p>It was noted that Place Alliance has a significant amount of experience with master planning for recreational spaces. Also, public meetings may include specific discussions regarding Henry Hudson Park.</p>	
Schedule	<p>A review of the project schedule took place. The schedule outlines anticipated monthly deliverables for each task. LWRAG meetings will take place throughout this project process. Up to 10 LWRAG meetings are proposed.</p> <p>A discussion took place regarding the timing of NYS DOS review. It was stated that review of the Draft LWRP may take additional time to allow for state agencies and federal agencies the opportunity to review the document. This process also includes having the document reviewed by the consistency department to make sure that the document is aligned with coastal management and state policies. Therefore, it was noted that the project schedule can be modified as needed.</p>	N/A
Preliminary Delineation of the Waterfront Revitalization Area	<p>The current boundary area is bound by I-87 to the west, the Hudson River to the east, the City of Albany to the North, and the Town of Coeymans to the South. The LWRAG is encouraged to think about the current study area boundary. This will be the focus of the next LWRAG meeting.</p> <p>An inquiry about obtaining mapping for LWRAG members was made.</p> <p>The Town noted that LWRAG member Peter Thomas could not be present at the meeting, but had a suggestion about the current boundary. Mr. Thomas recommended extending the boundary to the Normanskill at the Rail</p>	<p>MJ to provide the Town with the Draft Waterfront Districts Map.</p> <p>Town to print 11x17 maps for LWRAG member pick up.</p>

	Trail. It was noted that projects could be recommended connecting the Hudson River to the Rail Trail without extending the study area boundary.	
Next Steps	<p>Next steps include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stakeholder Boat Tour on June 20, 2016, 2:00 – 5:00 PM.</li> <li>▪ Initiation of the Community Outreach Plan (Task 7)</li> <li>▪ Provide revised Attachment A to the Town and LWRAG</li> <li>▪ Develop meeting summary</li> <li>▪ Scheduling the next LWRAG meeting</li> </ul> <p>Scenic Hudson distributed the <i>Revitalizing Hudson Riverfronts</i> publication during the meeting for reference and also noted that it is available online on their website.</p> <p>The Town may also provide live webcasts for public meetings on the Town website.</p> <p>The project team noted that project documents will be made available on the project website (link below). Should LWRAG members be unavailable for future meetings, this will aid in keeping the LWRAG up to date.</p>	<p>MJ to begin draft Community Outreach Plan (Task 7).</p> <p>MJ to provide revised Attachment A (to include corrected task table).</p> <p>MJ to develop LWRAG Meeting #1 meeting summary.</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>



# TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

## LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM UPDATE

Local Waterfront Revitalization Advisory Group Meeting #1  
 June 14, 2016  
 Town Hall, Room 101, 445 Delaware Avenue

Please sign in

Name	Affiliation	Email
Nava Tabak	Scenic Hudson	ntabak@scenicHUDSON.org
Jeff Anzevino	Scenic Hudson	janzevin@scenicHUDSON.org
Rosa Mendel	NYS Dept. of State	REMendez_DS@SVC.ny.gov
Valerie Ivan	NYS DOS	Valerie.Ivan@dos.ny.gov
Liz Stabach	Town of Bethlehem	estabach@townofbethlehem.org
Joann Dawson	Resident	jvdaws@gmail.com
Kathleen Reid	Town of Bethlehem	Kreid@townofbethlehem.org
Jan Messin	Resident	SMESSIN3@VERIZON.NET
Joan Carrilik	Friends of Bethlehem Parks & Recreation	JSG85@AOL.COM
David Van Loven	Town Board	dvanloven@townofbethlehem.org



# TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

## LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM UPDATE

Local Waterfront Revitalization Advisory Group Meeting #1  
 June 14, 2016  
 Town Hall, Room 101, 445 Delaware Avenue

Please sign in

Name	Affiliation	Email
John Smolinsky	Planning Board Chair T. of Bethlehem	
Kisa Evans	Committee	
John Clark	TOB	
Bob Uslie	Town	
Mark Poole	Innovative Surface Solutions	mpoole@innovativecompany.com
Nan Lanahan	TOB Parks & Recreation	nlanahan@townofbethlehem.org
John Sherman	Committee	
Ame Bucher	MJ Engineering	abucher@mjels.com
Jackie Hakes	MJ Engineering	jhakes@mjels.com
Kirsten Gaynor	MJ Engineering	kgaynor@mjels.com