



**Town of Esopus  
Waterfront Advisory Board  
January 23, 2019 Minutes**

**Members Present:** Chairperson Mercedes Ross, Carol Tomassetti and Marion Zimmer.

**Excused:** Amy Cahill, Eli Schloss, Margaret Phelan and Dale Wolfield.

**Also Present:** Supervisor Shannon Harris, Board Members Kathy Quick and Jared Geuss, Environmental Board Member Susan Barbarisi, Consultants Matt Rogers and Josh Westfall of the LaBerge Group and Confidential Secretary Karen Winkle-Gorsline.

Plans for the LWRP and Estuary River Grant were distributed for reference. There was also an Invasive Species Grant to be prepared which was separate from the Estuary Grant. The goal was to expedite the contract with the LWRP (Town was already working with the DEC for the Estuary Grant, so that was going to get “kicked off” first) but there was overlap and integration could be made as much as possible. The strategy was to start with the Estuary Plan and integrate with the LWRP as much as possible.

Environmental Board Member Susan Barbarisi provided a brief bio-history and expressed her desire with being involved in the Town of Esopus process, acknowledging that she was willing to serve as point person relative to the LWRP. Ms. Barbarisi had witnessed urban sprawl throughout her life as a result of uncoordinated planning and a lack of individuals working together and was impressed with the planning process in the Town of Esopus and wished to contribute.

Mr. Rogers indicated that a kick-off meeting on March 6, 2019 for the Waterfront Advisory meeting for the water access project would be scheduled (they were not available for the normally scheduled February 27, 2019 meeting of the WAB). The Members of the Board were in agreement that meeting notification on the Town’s Facebook Page was acceptable to them. It was also agreed that a 5:00 p.m. meeting time was preferable (to be confirmed with all members not present).

The Riverfront Access Study was distributed for the benefit of Members with objectives and tasks to consider. In anticipation of the kickoff meeting, a revised scope of work and project schedule was to be generated by the Consultants in advance of that meeting to help prepare for a meaningful March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Waterfront Plan was more policy oriented which was more involved than water access study that related to projects that were a bit easier to achieve. Mr. Westfall provided nuances of dealing with the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Department of State. Contracts from DEC & DOS would have milestones tied directly to the work plan (quarterly updates provided). All deliverables will be required to be provided to the State. Supervisor Harris inquired as to whether a scan could be provided at the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the available grants that may be part



**Town of Esopus  
Waterfront Advisory Board  
January 23, 2019 Minutes**

of the River Access Grant to which an affirmative answer was provided by the Consultants. Any questions were to be emailed and answered prior to the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting and help effectuate connectivity of those involved.

Moving on to the Invasive Species Grant, it was noted that the deadline of February 15, 2019 was fast approaching. The Grant would allow for the purchase of a second “Chester” and funding to pay for a seasonal employee, with both projects being eligible for funding. Discussion of purchasing new versus used, the purchase of a smaller machine, required maintenance of current machine and possibility of renting/sharing machine with another municipality ensued. Partnering with another municipality increased the likelihood of obtaining the funds requested for the purchase of another “Chester.” Discussion took place with regard to implementing resources of students to develop a long-term plan. Carol Tomassetti noted program utilized by Wayne County and was going to share information with members. The question was raised as to storage for “Chester” and the rowboats and the need for same. Old sheds were currently being utilized for the storage of the rowboats and a plan to launch boats was needed to more easily access the water at Lighthouse Park which could be put into the request for the River Access Grant. Chester was trailered and tarped and there was no need for actual storage.

It was noted that the point of contact for the Invasive Species Grant application was to be Chairperson Mercedes Ross. Draft grant to be prepared by February 4<sup>th</sup> to be prepared by LaBerge Group and provided to members for review.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa K. Mance, Secretary

Dated: February 12, 2019  
Approved: March 6, 2019