



Town of Esopus
Waterfront Advisory Board -
February 28, 2024 Minutes

Present: Chairperson Margaret Phelan, Vincent Coq, Lynn Johnston-Corcoran, Chet Allen, Carol Tomassetti, Marion Zimmer and Tim Triscari

Excused: Eli Schloss

Also present: Town Board Liaison Kathy Quick and Chris Marta

Chairman Phelan called the meeting to Order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes: Upon Motion of Member Carol Tomassetti, seconded by Member Tim Triscari and all in favor, the Minutes as amended were approved.

Esopus Tree Task Force: Jo Mispel, Laura Petit and Steve Cerini and Patricia Lewis (7:30 p.m.) presented planting options in the waterfront parks.

The Red Maple was discussed as a possible planting species (data sheet attached).

Infuse pest repellent plants in the proposed gardens in parks being designed by the WAB which could reduce the need for pest repellents. Would like plantings to support native fauna. Chet Allen suggested that the LLC property could be offered for test plantings for ground cover.

Installing a swing gate at the southern end of Freer Park (Tilden Street) to inhibit traffic and the creation of a path was another suggested concept. Not developing the southern end of Freer Park was a topic to bring up when the WAB met with LaBerge for discussion in the future. Steve Cerini needed to discuss with Park & Recs and there needed to be a discussion on when and how to order and where funding would come from. Tricia Lewis had contacted Catskill Native Nursery which had Red Maples at \$195.00 each. The Members agreed that the planting of the Red Maple would be its recommendation to the Town Board. Tricia Lewis would contact the nursery to see when trees would be available. Fall was the preferred planting season and inquiry would be made to determine if trees could be ordered for Fall planting.

Draft Mooring and Harbor Management Regulations – Chairperson Phelan telephoned Matt Rogers, P.E. to provide an overview and discuss the draft. The draft would be available for input/comments for a two-week period.

Looking to increase the jurisdictional area for the entirety of the Town. The Harbor Management boundary was taken from the draft LWRP and ended at Hidden Harbor and the Town would regulate moorings to the boundaries of the Town on the Hudson River. NYSDEC, Sheriff's Department and the NYS DEC would be engaged. The draft law would be revised to leave all regulations to the marinas and Zoning. This law would only apply to the regulation of buoys and

regulating moorings within the Town's moorings. (Chester would not be subject to any regulations.)

Chet Allen (any jurisdiction south on the Hudson River) – yes, boundary proposed to be extended to the Town of Lloyd municipal line and draft law would be amended. CEO would coordinate with the existing marinas to determine what moorings currently existed and establish a permitting process.

Carol Tomassetti inquired what was the problem that necessitated the need for the draft law. The response provided was that a situation existed in the Rondout Creek that needed to be addressed and without a law in place, law enforcement was powerless. Carol noted that the Rondout was a harbor but the Hudson River was a federally regulated waterbody. Secondly, if Kingston had a harbor management plan, had that been investigated and could it be applied. Matt Rogers responded that Kingston did have a Harbor Management Plan for a specific area to maintain navigation but it did not regulate other locations within Rondout Creek.

Carol Tomassetti – Any plan should be developed in collaboration with the City of Kingston to be able to effectively enforce. Mooring considerations for traveling boaters and expectations need to also be considered. The draft law duplicated other laws already in effect. Matt Rogers stated that the priority was to regulate where mooring buoys could be placed and how long they could be utilized and for what purposes. The vast majority of restrictions could be taken out of the draft.

Looking to enact within 2 -3 months. Carol Tomassetti noted rather than developing a draft law encompassing many items that were already regulated, the draft law should target the problem issue. Matt Rogers stated that if there were regulations being adequately addressed by other agencies, they could be taken out of the draft law. Down the road, if a Harbor Management Plan was ever developed, the law could be revisited. The Town's main issue was the moorings. Matt Rogers stated that everything else being addressed and regulated was included in the draft and could be taken out. The Members agreed that items currently regulated should be removed and a revised version of the draft was preferred. Matt Rogers would provide a revised draft to Chairperson Phelan who would circulate to the Members to comment within the two-week timeframe. Chairperson Phelan requested that any comments sent to Matt Rogers be copied to her.

Planning Board Member Chris Marta was present to serve as a liaison to the Waterfront Advisory Board. Although not found in the Town Code, Members believed that inclusion of a liaison was specified in the LWRP. It was agreed that it would be an asset to have a Member of the Planning Board present when referrals from the Planning Board to the Waterfront Advisory Board were made. Councilperson Quick would investigate with the Town what was in the Code and would communicate to the Town Board that all Members were in agreement to have Planning Board Member Chris Marta serve as the liaison. Margaret Phelan would also have a conversation with Consultants Johsua Hunn and Adriana Beltrani regarding the wording contained in the LWRP and the present wording that liaisons actually serve as a member.

There currently was a vacancy on the Waterfront Advisory Board and Chairperson Phelan requested Members to provide any suggestions.

Upon Motion of Chet Allen, seconded by Member Lynn Corcoran-Johnston, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Mance, Secretary

Dated: April 24, 2024

Approved: July 31, 2024

FREER PARK
ESOPUS



Plant Name

Red Maple
Acer Rubrum

Notes Dense Root System makes it suitable for preventing soil erosion.
Grows fast and tall.(1 to 2 feet a year)
Can live 150 years
"Red Sunset" (pic above) or "October Glory" for good color!
Can grow in wet areas
Visual interest each season
Wide spreading canopy provides shade
Habitat Generalist
[USDA fact sheet](#)

Plant type Deciduous Tree

Exposure Sun, Part Shade

Height 40 to 70'

Spread 30 to 50'

Water Needs Low Drought tolerance, usually found in moist woodlands and wet swamps - if not wet ground needs deep watering.

Maintenance Thrives in a variety of habitats
Thick strong roots that grow near the surface and can be injured from mowing - ground cover?
Fall is best time to plant
Use organic mulch
Does not need fertilizer every year
Few pests bother but Asia long-horned beetle a concern

Soil Tend to like slightly acidic but tolerant of most

Attracts Nectar for bees and seeds for birds and animals