

TOWN OF ESOPUS LWRP AND WATERFRONT ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
April 26, 2023 – VIA ZOOM

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

EXCUSED: Eric Keyser

ALSO PRESENT: Adriana Beltrani, AICP and Robert Holzman of Laberge Group, Town Board Liaison Kathy Quick and Environmental Board Liaison Cynthia McVay

Chairperson Margaret Phelan called the meeting to order at 7:01

Senior Planner Beltrani introduced herself as well as colleague Planning Services Manager Robert Holzman

A Memorandum had been provided which outline each section of the draft LWRP document and the status of Sections 1 through 7.

Section 1 – Introduction and Waterfront Area Boundary.

This section included goals, visions and objectives which had been developed by the Members. Carol Tomassetti admitted that she had not reviewed the document in its entirety and that it was incumbent on all the Board members to review the document. Planner Beltrani wished to determine what was complete and that at least one more meeting would be necessary.

Section 2 – Inventory and Analysis

Supports rationale for projects and policies in place. LaBerge had prepared an inventory and analysis which had been provided to Josh Hunn of NYS DOS and LaBerge had now responded to comments provided. Additional review by DOS will be needed but WAB members were asked to review to confirm. There were two (2) items in this section regarding the status of the North Broadway to the Wastewater Treatment Plant access to the waterfront and the status of the St. Cabrini property development. Carol Tomassetti and Kathy Quick would research the status of the road and existence of any easement to access the WTP and waterfront. Planner Beltrani noted a sentence referencing the St. Cabrini property and would update the verbiage in this section to be less specific relative to any purchase. It would be noted that it remained underutilized and remained a project. Carol Tomassetti stated that structuring language to allow public access be negotiated regarding St. Cabrini property and other properties with waterfront access be developed and build into “Section 4” for projects.

Section 3 – Local Waterfront Revitalization Policies

Policies in this section are copied and pasted from DOS language and doesn't change. WAB was asked to review the consistency and accuracy of the local explanations would be helpful to Laberge.

Policy 25 - Legion Court not seen as a project and Planner Beltrani asked how the Committee felt. There is a statement under local explanation of policy - is the site at the end of Legion Court being pursued as a public location. How did the Committee feel about pursuing as a scenic view. Margaret wanted to promote the retention of the vista for public use (currently owned by the Fire Department). Members agreed. Adriana would research, add to Section 4 and Margaret offered to take photographs. Margaret Phelan noted that Joshua Hunn had added remark to "chat" stating that design guidelines would be important to discuss in local explanation of policy.

Section 4 - Proposed Land and Water Uses and Proposed Projects

Everyone asked to review part IV noting that input on this section was very important and it was currently a working draft. DOS had not reviewed.

There were two (2) properties on Rondout Creek. Rather than specifically naming the properties, Planner Beltrani suggested that it would be beneficial to note the properties are part of the same Hamlet and reworked to expand the Rondout Gateway and Revitalization revitalization planning concept.

Ross Park – Improvements on-going and information had been requested from the Town Supervisor.

Bolded items in Memorandum needed input from Members.

Chet Allen would like to encourage a walkway along Rondout Creek and wanted to note as a vision that could be developed. Could be included in the introduction in Section IV.

Section – Natural resources – Southern Hudson Area Open Space Plan – Emphasis John Burroughs and Black Creek trails were important historic and scenic landscapes and buildings could be beneficial to ensure trail connections could be an option. Would like feed back on that.

Scenic Resources Inventory – Cornell had prepared but had never been adopted by the Town and work well into the Open Space Plan.

Port Ewen Water Treatment Plan – not clear on whether decommissioning plant was ever a possibility and potential for development should be included in the plan Councilperson Quick stated that decommissioning the WTP would not happen in the near future. Adding that it was a valuable deep water access point should be included in the Plan and the Town should never get rid of the property should decommission ever occur. CHPE should be addressed in the plan and Planner Beltrani would provide wording if appropriate.

Sections 5 – Techniques for Local Implementation of the Program- regulations already exists and brings in discussion of design guidelines and the role of the WAB in reviewing development

Section 6 – State and Federal Actions and Programs Likely to Affect Implementation.

Provided by the State and is not something that would change.

Section 7 – Local Commitment and Consultation with other Affected Federal, State, Regional and Local Agencies

Efforts undertaken by the Community including stakeholder meetings – please review and confirm that information is accurate. Margaret – under public input, community had expressed not being able to provide enough comment and asked if another survey was necessary. Carol Tomassetti suggested circulating a survey for final comments. What new information could be provided that would change the plan? Planner Beltrani cautioned expending efforts that may not result in new comments and that additional public comment may be heard during the Town Board adoption of the Plan. Members agreed to Adrianna’s approach to present the draft LWRP but not have another public comment event.

Planner Beltrani wanted to review Law for input from Members.

Design Guidelines – Was it complete? Members believed that it had been presented for public input. Adrianna may add to a meeting if there were any loose ends.

Next Steps

Margaret asked if there could be an email from Planner Beltrani to outline sections that needed to be reviewed.

Planner would like to receive comments in a consolidated manner. The harbor management plan still needed to be completed.

Process for submission for review to the NYS DOS, Town Board acceptance and DOS review with Federal and State agencies and timelines were discussed.

Sections II and IV were the most important for the Members to provide input to address outstanding issues.

Planner Beltrani stated that week of May 10, 2023 would allow time to process and prepare for next meeting on May 24, 2023. Chairperson Phelan set date of May 12th for all Members to review and provide comments. Planner Beltrani stated input could be provided to her by any means possible.

WAB Business –

Pavilions - Margaret had provided information regarding pavilions at Freer Park and Lighthouse Park.

Chester – Carol had provided a link to charts outlining the plans for 2023. Cutting in the Northern Freer Park/Sleightsburg area was not required in 2022. Plans for 2023 will be contingent on how the weeds grow in each location. Dates for training and the boat launch are being announced, a volunteer drive is being conducted, training is targeted for the end of May and early June and the boat launch is targeted for early June, with cutting to likely commenced around mid-June.

Margaret reminded all that May 6th was the date for Riversweep and parks still looking for volunteers and contact Riverkeeper to sign up.

Upon Motion of Chet Allen, seconded by Marion Zimmer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Lisa K. Mance, Administrative Assistant
Date prepared: April 27, 2023
Date Approved: June 28, 2023