

## **SECTION VII Local Commitment and Consultation**

### **7.1 Local Commitment**

The Town of Hamburg initiated its efforts to prepare a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program in May 2002, at which time its Shoreline Revitalization Committee met to discuss updating the existing LWRP, adopted in 1987. A sub-committee was established to oversee and guide the review and revision of the program. The Sub-Committee was comprised of representatives from the overall Hamburg Shoreline Revitalization Committee, Town Board, Town Engineer and local community, including local residents. This committee met six times during the planning process (January 16, 2003, March 24, 2003, May 29, 2003, June 26, 2003 and October 30, 2003) to assist with the update of the LWRP.

To strengthen local commitment for the Town's planning efforts, the Sub-Committee held two public information meetings to provide local citizens an opportunity to comment on significant issues and opportunities in the Town waterfront areas. The meetings were held on January 27, 2003 and February 4, 2003. The first meeting was attended by thirteen people while thirty-six people attended the second public information meeting. The purpose of these meetings was to introduce the LWRP and solicit initial comments from the public about their concerns for the waterfront. The information gathered at these meetings was utilized to shape the LWRP policies, as well as the proposed projects and implementation measures outlined in the program.

### **7.2 Consultation**

Pursuant to the Article 42 of the Executive Law, Waterfront Revitalization of Coastal Areas and Inland Waterways Act, the 60-day review period for the draft LWRP Amendment was initiated after the Town Board accepted the draft as ready for review and submitted it to the New York State Department of State. Potentially affected State, Federal, regional and local agencies, including Erie County, the Town of Evans, the Village of Blasdell and City of Lackawanna were informed of the review period of the draft LWRP amendment. Comments received on the draft LWRP amendment were reviewed by the Town and the Department of State, and minor changes were made, as required, to reflect the comments. After the Town Board of the Town of Hamburg adopts the LWRP amendment, the Secretary of State approves the document, pursuant to the Article 42 of the Executive Law, Waterfront Revitalization of Coastal Areas and Inland Waterways Act. Then, pursuant to 15 CFR 923.84(b), the Department of State requests incorporation of the amended LWRP into the State's Coastal Management Program.

**HELP US PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE**

Economic Development

Community Character

Flooding and Erosion Protection

Water Quality

Visitorship/Tourism



Industrial Development

Public Access and Trails

Water and Sewer Services

Scenic Resources

Parks and Recreation

PLEASE ATTEND A PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING ON

FEBRUARY 4, 2003 at 7:00 PM

AT THE LAKESHORE FIRE HALL

TO DISCUSS THE ISSUES AND CONCERNS THAT WILL GUIDE THE

FUTURE OF YOUR WATERFRONT

Town of Hamburg Local Waterfront Revitalization Program

Sponsored by the Town of Hamburg Shoreline Revitalization Committee

on behalf of the Town Board

## Meeting Notes

### Town of Hamburg Local Waterfront Revitalization Program

#### Public Information Meeting

January 27, 2003

Hamburg Town Hall

#### Attendees:

Gerard Kapsiak, Town Engineer, Shoreline Revitalization Sub-Committee

Paul DeWald, Shoreline Revitalization Sub-Committee

Tom Bender, Shoreline Revitalization Sub-Committee (end of meeting)

Tom Quatroche, Jr., Councilman

Joe Kilian

Richard Miller

Dave Woelfling

Martin Denecke, Director of Recreation

Laura Hahn

Jane McAnaney

T.J. Pignataro, Buffalo News

Wendy Salvati, Wendel Duchscherer

Gary Palumbo, Wendel Duchscherer

---

Wendy Salvati opened the public information meeting with an introduction to the LWRP. She explained that the Town's Shoreline Revitalization Committee began the process of updating the (1987) LWRP. The purpose of the LWRP is to create a plan for the Town's waterfront and to establish policies to protect the natural waterfront and improve public access by refining the State's more general policies.

The purpose of the meeting is to gather public input on local conditions and issues before revising the LWRP policies.

Councilman Tom Quatroche asked Ms. Salvati to point out the differences in scope between the 1987 LWRP and the current effort.

Ms. Salvati replied that the current project would be more specific where the original LWRP was generic. It will also take into consideration all the changes and projects that have occurred since then.

To date, an inventory of existing conditions has been compiled and mapped. Ms. Salvati noted some of the changes and projects since the 1987 LWRP: Athol Springs Shoreline Protection project, Old

Lakeshore Road Erosion protection project, the proposed scenic overlook at Foit's, Woodlawn Beach and Town Park improvement projects, and the visitor's center at the Wanakah water plant. In addition

the current LWRP will look at possible zoning changes. Also the LWRP boundary is proposed to be changed to better reflect only the areas relevant to the waterfront.

Joe Kilian made several suggestions:

- The LWRP address a possible connection to the GBNRTC recreation trail.
- In order to maintain designation as part of the New York Seaway Trail, there cannot be any billboards on Route 5.
- Improve markings and identification of easements and right-of-ways for public access to the beach and waterfront.

Richard Miller suggested that any future improvements to Route 5 should not include road widening that would cut the community off from the waterfront and beach. Route 5 should not become like the Robert Moses Expressway. He added the importance of maintaining the tunnel under Route 5 near the Wanakah water plant.

Ms. Salvati added that the proposed Seaway Trail Visitors Center project would include improving the path from the tunnel to the beach.

Councilman Quatroche stated that it would be helpful to understand what easements and rights-of-way are on record with the Town. It is understood that some are now privately held and some public easements have been encroached upon. Mr. Kilian stated that he has old maps showing access locations.

Mr. Miller raised the concern regarding making the beach accessible to non-Hamburg residents.

Paul DeWald added that there needs to be access and parking for Hamburg residents that don't live in the immediate waterfront neighborhoods.

Mr. Kilian added that litter is an issue. He would like to see a "tread lightly" or "leave it cleaner than you found it" educational program. Also regarding maintenance, the tunnel needs to be painted.

Mr. Kilian noted that by not having any transient docks for a boater to tie-up to, there is no way for visitors to stop and eat or shop in the community.

Mr. DeWald added that the lack of a protected harbor and facilities for visitors is a detriment.

The concept was discussed of constructing a breakwall and creating a harbor from Foit's to Hoaks and then adding facilities for transient boaters.

Mr. Miller asked why large stone from road projects couldn't be used to protect Route 5 in Athol Springs.

Councilman Quatroche reminded the audience that the Town has been working with Assemblyman Dick Smith, DOT and the Army Corps of Engineers to complete the project. DOT is committed to the project and the ACE should be done with their feasibility study soon.

It was concluded that due to the costs involved, the only way for a marina project to go forward would be for it to be a federal project. Then it could not remain only a local facility for Hamburg residents.

Mr. DeWald added that such a large project in the water would be subject to permit and regulatory issues. It's not just the cost, so even if the Town wanted to move forward, it would have to be a State/Federal project and then be required to be accessible and opened to the general public.

Mr. Kilian noted that Route 5 is on an intercontinental bicycle route, but Hamburg is not very inviting for people to stay over. There are opportunities to create business opportunities.

Dave Woelfling stated that while large projects like a marina are good, the vision (for the LWRP) should be more pragmatic. We know there is not going to be money for a marina, so the focus should be on small achievable projects. He noted several:

- Address the known blight areas; Hoaks dumpsters and Foit's
- Address removing things that block the view of the lake
- The rip rap protection around the Bed Rock Café is atrocious (broken concrete rubble)
- Complete the splash-over projects
- DOT should include gateway treatments at both ends of Route 5 (in Hamburg)

Mr. Woelfling stated that if there were a marina he would get a new boat, but like many other people, jet skis and personal watercraft have replaced boats. Maybe what is needed is a safe and secure staging place (and parking) for the smaller personal watercraft.

Mr. Miller suggested that the road where it curves at Foit's should be widened and straightened.

Mr. Kilian noted that there are shipwrecks in the lake. Mr. DeWald added that the dive shop in Hamburg might provide some insight to the opportunities.

Mr. Kilian noted another commercial opportunity that Hamburg has not taken advantage of is fishing.

Ms. Salvati concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their input and reminding them that the next public information meeting will be held February 4, at 7:00 in the Lake Shore Fire Hall.

The meeting ended at approximately 7:00.

cc: Shoreline Revitalization Committee

## Meeting Notes

### Town of Hamburg Local Waterfront Revitalization Program

#### Public Information Meeting

February 4, 2003 – 7:00 PM

#### Lake Shore Fire Hall

##### Attendees:

Gerard Kapsiak, Town Engineer, Shoreline/LWRP Sub-Committee

Tom Bender, Shoreline/LWRP Sub-Committee

Larry Cobado, Shoreline/LWRP Sub-Committee

Katie Schneider, Shoreline/LWRP Sub-Committee

Tom Quatroche, Jr., Councilman

Fred Harrington

Joe Kilian

Tina Kilian

Joe Kleinfelder

Joe Rafter

Marie Cobado

Fred Dinkel

Bill Curran

Tom Disare

Jeff Reid

Bruce Thompson, Shoreline Committee

Richard Miller

Melanie Gregg (for Assemblyman Dick Smith)

Caroline Schreggenburger

Jeff Sweetland

Wendy Weber Salvati, Wendel Duchscherer

Paul Schultz

Rosemary Donahue

Jerry Bastedo

Melinda Disare

Mike McNamara

Joseph R(?)

Joseph Kasperek

Steve McCabe

Leslie Winter

David Peters

Tony Verdi

Peter Krzemien

Kathy Sweetland

George Sweetland

Gary Palumbo, Wendel Duchscherer

---

Councilman Tom Quatroche opened the public information meeting by welcoming the public and introducing Wendy Weber Salvati, the Planning Consultant that is assisting the Town with the update of the LWRP.

Ms. Salvati gave a brief introduction to the LWRP. She explained that the Town's Shoreline Revitalization Sub-Committee began the process of updating the (1987) LWRP. The purpose of the LWRP is to create a plan for the Town's waterfront and to establish the most appropriate local policies to protect the natural

waterfront and improve public access. The process will refine the State's original and more general policies.

We will also be updating the LWRP to be consistent with the 1997 Master Plan, and to reflect many other changes that have occurred along the shoreline since the 1987 adoption of the LWRP.

The purpose of the meeting is to gather public input on local conditions. At this point we are looking for new issues, opportunities and concerns before revising the LWRP policies.

Councilman Quatroche introduced the Hamburg Shoreline Revitalization Committee members in attendance and pointed out the maps and aerial photography displayed in the room.

Joe Kilian noted that he talked to the NYSDOT regarding alternative culvert design for Berricks Creek under Route 5 utilizing aesthetically pleasing guide rails. It could be similar to the Route 5 bridge in Barcelona, New York.

A resident discussed the use of the extension of Rogers Road for beach access. Unfortunately, because this is not a formal public beach there is no policing or maintenance.

Councilman Quatroche stated that we need to identify all the public rights-of-way and easements that provide access. He is having the Town Legal Department look into it.

It was also noted how successful the annual Beach Clean-up has been working thanks to the assistance of the Operating Engineers.

A resident noted that she envisions a more "residential feel" to the waterfront. She believes the waterfront is not used enough. There needs to be more bike paths and more public access.

Mr. Kilian discussed some history of Route 5 and its early use as a bike path, which led to it being paved.

A resident suggested installing historical markers along the roadway.

Ms. Salvati noted that one goal of the Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC) is to expand multi-use paths throughout Erie County, particularly along the shoreline. The Town of Hamburg has received a grant to design and construct a pathway along Hoover Road, from the terminus of the pathway at Woodlawn Beach State Park to Route 5, near Hoak's.

Ms. Salvati asked if the residents felt there was enough public access to the shoreline?

Bruce Thompson said that in 1959 the idea was to have access at the foot of Amsdell Road, but the adjacent property owner has erected a wall to block access.

The question was raised if we really need more public access, especially if we get Foits (referring to the Town's proposal to purchase this property and develop it into a scenic overlook).

Michael McNamara noted that it's not a question of access but of access to what. The Town needs to do something with the waterfront area it has now. It's not a pleasant situation.

A discussion began regarding the costs and engineering feasibility of various types of structures including groins, jetties and piers along the waterfront, particularly in the area offshore of the Athol Springs area.

Beach replenishment in general and the permitting issues for the past Town jetty project were also discussed at length. Presque Isle, Pennsylvania and the south shore of Long Island, New York were presented as good examples to follow.

Fred Harrington stated that considering the vacant industrial waterfront, the City of Buffalo, City of Lackawanna and Town of Hamburg should do a regional plan.

Joe Rafter suggested that a memorial to the crew of Light Ship 82, which was lost in a 1913 storm, be included at the proposed Seaway Trail Visitors Center at the former Wanakah water works building.

Mr. Kleinfelder stated that at one time there was a groin at Wanakah beach, but the residents took it out.

Mr. McNamara replied that it was put in "illegally" and the Army Corps had it bulldozed out, then they lost the beach.

Mr. Miller said that this is a tough area to keep a boat.

A long discussion ensued regarding littoral drift, accretion and scour as related to groin construction, beach nourishment and the general idea of constructing a safe harbor at the Town Park. It was suggested that the cost for the Army Corps. of Engineers/NYS DOT splash-over project be spent on a breakwall instead. There could be economic benefits for the Town that could offset costs. It was generally concluded that cost and permitting issues are prohibitive for such a project at the Town level.

Mr. Kilian and Joe Kleinfelder discussed parking and access issues in the area of Foits, suggesting a traffic light or tunnel for safely crossing the road at this location.

Dave Peters suggested that the Town-owned land on Lakeshore Road be improved with parking, benches and tables and a traffic signal at Mt. Vernon Blvd.

Fred Dinkel stated that the Snyder Tank property used to be a boat facility and should be re-established for such use.

A resident stated that there should be something more inviting for boaters that come through here to want to stop. We have no safe harbor or true attractions. Mr. Kilian said that Port Dalhousie, Ontario is a good example of spectacular and inviting waterfront development.

A resident noted water quality and poor sewage treatment as an issue that impacts the use of the waterfront.

A resident asked if a long pedestrian dock could be installed, similar to one in Lakeside, Ohio (Marblehead).

Ms. Salvati replied that such docks are difficult due to changing water levels, but noted that the Wanakah water works project is proposed to include a small dock.

Tony Verdi suggested ice skating as an activity at the Town Park or somewhere in the vicinity.

Re-establishment of the Hamburg Regatta was discussed. It was noted that although good cooperation was received from the Town, the local racing fleet is no longer interested in the race.



Mr. Kilian asked if the plan was “putting the cart before the horse” and the Town should wait until the NYSDOT is done with its Route 5 projects.

Ms. Salvati replied that the LWRP’s policies should come first and the NYSDOT will have to consider the LWRP policies as it formulates an acceptable alternative for traffic calming and neighborhood enhancement along Route 5.

Councilman Quatroche concluded the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

Ms. Salvati reminded everyone that may have additional comments that they can take one of the forms at the door and mail in their comments.

The meeting ended at approximately 8:35. Residents and committee members then viewed and discussed the maps and materials provided.

cc: Shoreline Revitalization Committee

File