

SECTION VIII: LOCAL COMMITMENT

It has been clear from the outset that in the Villages of Head-of-the-Harbor and Nissequogue the creation, implementation, and execution of any Local Waterfront Revitalization Program would be wholly dependent upon a high level of continuing local commitment. No doubt this requirement is general; in this instance it is imperative, as there is no external source of energy available for the purpose of program-making or plan execution. The non-developmental, conservation and preservation-directed nature of the plan best suited to the needs of the Villages required local conception and initiative as well as direction, and fulfilling such a plan demanded the participation of residents and local officials and the commitment of local funds. Historically, the impetus towards the creation of an LWRP arose initially within local government, and all steps in the planning stage have involved all members of the local government of the two Villages as well as a number of residents.

1. A Joint Committee for Coastal Management Planning was formed by the Villages of Head-of-the-Harbor and Nissequogue. Three members were appointed by each Mayor, one member from each Village was named Co-Chairman. The duty of the Planning Committee was to enunciate policies, propose implementations, and create preliminary documents.
2. A primary Advisory Committee was constituted, consisting of the Mayors and Boards of Trustees of the Villages. The preliminary drafts of policies and suggested implementations were presented by the Planning Committee to this body. The Boards of Trustees, acting jointly, commissioned a study of the hydrodynamic characteristics of Stony Brook Harbor, to be made by the Marine Sciences Research Center, SUNY/Stony Brook. The study has been accomplished, funded by a combination of State, County, private, and Village contributions. Proposed expansion of harbor studies is part of the Villages' LWRP.
3. A second draft of the LWRP was presented by the Planning Committee to a second Advisory Committee, enlarged to include all members of Village government of both Villages: Mayors, Trustees, Planning Board, Conservation Advisory Council, Board of Architectural Review, Village Attorney, Village Engineer, Village Clerk. The revisions suggested by this Advisory Committee are incorporated into the final LWRP which was presented to the DOS.
4. The revised Draft LWRP was presented at a public meeting prior to submission to the DOS. The meeting was advertised in the legal manner and copies of all documents to be discussed was available at the Village office. The LWRP of the Villages includes the improvement of means of local communication, which are poor, owing to the geographical and demographical nature of both Head-of-the-Harbor and Nissequogue, neither of which has a post office, or village center, and in both of which the population density is low.

5. Additional public participation was included during the public hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and subsequently, in connection with public hearings required for the adoption of implementing legislation.

The LWRP for Head-of-the-Harbor and Nissequogue recognizes the problems generally, and inherently, connected with the dissemination of information in small scattered communities, and the eliciting of steady participation by the residents. Various means of improving communication between government and residents, and residents and local government, have been undertaken and proposed, including the distribution of a regular newsletter. The formation of an active residents' association particularly connected with management activities in Stony Brook Harbor is encouraged by local government.