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## SECTION VIII: LOCAL COMMITMENT

### A. Historical Background

The first step in seeking public commitment in Larchmont to the LWRP was taken in the choice of individuals appointed by the Village to the Coastal Zone Management Committee when this body was first established in September 1982. In addition to several members appointed for their known interest and expertise in environmental matters, water management and other relevant subjects, representation was also obtained from concerned private organizations in the Village including the shoreline clubs and property owners' groups. Subsequently, when the Committee became a bi-municipal body, the members appointed by the Town Council -- as well as additional members appointed by the Village -- included individuals with extensive experience in local government and community service.

All working meetings of the Committee were held at least once each month, and were open to the public. Many were attended and addressed by interested citizens. Prior notice of meetings was routinely sent to the local news media. The Daily Times (Mamaroneck) and the Soundview News published numerous articles on the work of the Committee and the LWRP planning process.

In June 1984 the Committee published as a paid advertisement in the Daily Times a questionnaire designed to obtain residents' views on the merits and relative importance of various issues with which the LWRP was expected to deal. Responses were received from about 40 individuals and were taken into account by the Committee in its work. One respondent commented: "Bravo! A survey like this is a very good idea... why not do it every year?" "

On April 27, 1984, and again on November 27, the Committee held well-publicized public meetings to acquaint interested residents with the program and to obtain their views on the issues involved. Attendance at the first meeting was about 75, at the second about 60. Committee members and the Committee's professional consultant addressed the meetings and answered questions. In advance of the November 27 meeting the Committee distributed widely throughout the community a 10-page "Overview" of the draft program.

The Committee did not shy away from controversy when it arose but sought to deal with it through open discussion and debate. When disagreement arose in the Village of Larchmont on the issue of a permanent management structure for the LWRP, opposing views on the subject, written by a member of the Village Board and the Larchmont co-chairman of the Committee, were

published by the Daily Times in adjoining columns. The issue was later resolved by negotiation.

Material about the LWRP, both for and against, also appeared in the letters column of The Daily Times. A notable item in this category was a letter printed July 10, 1984, from Town Supervisor Dolores Battalia and Village Mayor Miriam Curnin, supporting the Committee's questionnaire project and calling the LWRP process "an unparalleled opportunity to plan with intelligence to nurture and protect the beautiful gift which is our coastal area".

Brief accounts of the LWRP process were printed in the 1984 annual report of the Tri-municipal Conservation Advisory Commission and in "Facts of Life in Larchmont," a periodical information bulletin of the Village government.

Members of the Coastal Zone Management Committee participated as speakers and/or panelists in several meetings organized by local citizens' organizations: a Larchmont-Mamaroneck forum on coastal zone planning organized by the local Leagues of Women Voters on October 18, 1984; a meeting of the Larchmont-Mamaroneck Civic Association, a property owners' group, on March 26, 1985; a Larchmont Rotary Club luncheon, July 12, 1985; and a League of Women Voters forum on the "Westchester 2000" report (a County-wide study of long-range issues), November 14, 1985. Discussions were held for a briefing of realtors in the Larchmont-Mamaroneck area. Candidates for the Mamaroneck Town Council were briefed on the LWRP in October 1984 prior to the November election.

In connection with the LWRP planning process, "Coast Week 1984" (October 7 to 14) was proclaimed officially by the Supervisor of the Town of Mamaroneck and the Mayor of the Village of Larchmont.

The local-access cable TV studio, LMC-TV, produced and broadcast early in 1986 an hour-long program on the LWRP with narrative by CZM Committee members and on local access cable TV, with footage at locations critical to the program such as the Larchmont Manor Park, the Larchmont Reservoir, and the tidal marshes.

## B. The Present

Since 1986, the Coastal Zone Management Commission (CZMC) has become a recognizable and respected presence in Mamaroneck and Larchmont. Commission meetings are held once a month, and are open to the public. All proposed Type I and Unlisted actions are reviewed by the CZMC, which only acts in an advisory capacity, but whose advice is usually taken by the respective Boards. The advice of the CZMC is also sought by the Building

Departments of both municipalities. Liaisons from the CZMC attend meetings of the Town and Village Boards, their respective Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeal, Board of Architectural Review and local environmental organizations.

Commission activities are carefully detailed in Annual Reports (see Appendix), which also list all referrals and their disposition, record other environmental events and record all matters concerning the LWRP and the workings of the Commission.

The Mamaroneck-Larchmont Local Waterfront Revitalization Program is a living document. It is an integral part of the decision-making process when environmental issues are involved. For these reasons, the 1986 LWRP required updating.

December 1994