

PREFACE .

Purpose. The purpose of a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) is to promote economic development and revitalization within the local waterfront area while assuring the protection and beneficial use of coastal resources therein.

Authority. The Waterfront Revitalization of Coastal Areas and Inland Waterways Act (NYS Executive Law, Article 42) and the implementing of rules and regulations for the Act (Part 600 NYCRR) authorize the preparation of Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs with financial and technical assistance from the NYS Department of State. Article 42 and Part 600 also require that all State agency actions proposed in a local waterfront area covered by an approved program be undertaken in a manner consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the policies and purposes of such program. In the absence of an approved LWRP, State agency actions in the coastal area must be consistent with the forty-four (44) coastal policies set forth in the New York State Coastal Management Program (CMP). In essence, when an LWRP has been approved by the NYS Secretary of State, its policies and purposes are substituted for those of the CMP.

Steps. A draft LWRP is prepared following guidelines developed by the NYS Department of State. The draft assesses local waterfront conditions, identifies policies applicable to those conditions, proposes future land and water uses and projects for the local waterfront area and describes local means for implementing such policies, uses and projects. It also identifies State and Federal agencies that would be affected by or would be needed to implement the program; indicates those government agencies and other organizations consulted during preparation of the program, and describes measures taken to assure local commitment to program implementation. A draft environmental impact statement (EIS) is prepared for the proposed local action of adopting the program.

Next, the draft LWRP is submitted to the NYS Department of State with a resolution from the local governing body authorizing the submission. The Department of State, in turn, prepares a program summary and distributes copies of the summary and the draft LWRP to approximately 70 State and Federal agencies for their review and comment during a 60-day review period. Coincident with this review period, the local governing body provides for public review and comment on both the draft LWRP and draft EIS.

The Department of State then assists the local governing body in preparing a final EIS and a final LWRP which address comments received on the draft EIS and the draft LWRP. When the local governing body has adopted the final LWRP and has enacted any local regulatory measures needed to implement it, the NYS Secretary of State and the U.S. Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management are asked to approve the LWRP. Upon approval of the LWRP, all State and Federal agencies are required by law to undertake proposed actions in the local waterfront area in a manner that is consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the policies and purposes of the approved LWRP. The local government is similarly obligated by a local law enacted to assure consistency.

Summary of the Village/Town LWRP The eight sections of the Village of Morristown/Town of Morristown LWRP are summarized as follows:

SECTION I- WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION AREA BOUNDARY. The first section identifies and clarifies both the landward and waterside boundaries of the local waterfront area.

SECTION II- INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS. This section inventories and analyzes natural resources (water, land, vegetation, fish and wildlife and scenic resources), community/cultural resources (development, public access and recreation, historic and archeological resources and agricultural resources), existing land and water uses and important economic activities in the waterfront area. For each category inventoried, the analysis discusses problems, issues and/or opportunities which should be addressed in later sections of the program.

SECTION III- WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM POLICIES. Section III lists the 44 NYS coastal policies under the headings Development Policies, Fish and Wildlife Policies, Flooding and Erosion Hazard Policies, General Policy, Public Access and Recreation Policies, Scenic Resources Policies, Agricultural Lands Policy, Energy and Ice Management Policies, and Water and Air Resources Policies. Of the 44 State coastal policies listed, 40 are explained as applicable while 4 are identified as not applicable. Accompanying the State policies are 28 local policies aimed at providing greater specificity and additional coastal management capability. Where appropriate, guidelines are included to assist in applying the State and local policies.

SECTION IV- PROPOSED USES AND PROJECTS. Here, proposed future land and water uses are recommended for the Village and Town waterfront area. In the Village, the proposed land use pattern would generally reflect the existing zoning map, but with adjustments to reflect the availability of public sewage collection and treatment facilities, greater emphasis on small harbor development and promotion of highway-related commercial development near the eastern limits of the Village. Proposed land uses in the Town would mostly represent a continuation of existing uses, but with new emphasis on highway-related commercial development along NY Route 37 between the Village's eastern limits and English Settlement Road.

Projects proposed in the Village consist of Bayside Park improvements, old windmill restoration, Main Street bridge removal (with at-grade street replacement) and bicycle/jogging path development. Bicycle/jogging path development along River Road is a proposed Town project.

SECTION V- TECHNIQUES FOR LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM. This section describes the local laws and regulations, other public and private actions, management structures and financial resources necessary to implement the LWRP. The section also describes additional local laws which were specifically erected to implement the program, such as amendments to the Village's zoning ordinance. The amendments to the zoning regulations included the adjustment of zoning district boundaries to reflect future land uses as proposed in Section IV, a waterfront review (overlay) district, and site plan review regulations using the LWRP policies as review criteria. Town regulatory measures consist of the site plan review regulations (with the LWRP policies as review criteria) applied just to the waterfront area and mobile home regulations.

Other Village and Town implementation measures are identified in this section. They include: means of financing proposed projects, studies and plans; management responsibilities of local officials; and, descriptions of local and State/Federal consistency reviews.

SECTION VI - FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAMS LIKELY TO AFFECT IMPLEMENTATION. This section identifies those State and Federal agencies which must act consistently with the local program, once approved, and those whose actions would be needed for the local program's implementation.

SECTION VII- CONSULTATION WITH OTHER AFFECTED FEDERAL, STATE, REGIONAL AND LOCAL AGENCIES. Section VII simply lists the various agencies or organizations consulted regarding the preparation of LWRP's in general or specifically, regarding the Village/Town program.

SECTION VIII- LOCAL COMMITMENT. This section briefly describes the process undertaken to obtain local support for the program and commitment to its implementation.

Benefits of An Approved Program

1. The program establishes (through its various policies) means of both protecting and enhancing local coastal resources within the framework of Village and Town regulations, projects and other implementation techniques.
2. State and Federal agencies will be required by law to be consistent with the local program's policies and purposes once it has been approved.
3. Financial and/or technical assistance will be provided, when available, by the NYS Department of State to assist in implementation of the program.

SECTION I

WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION AREA BOUNDARY