

Town of Schodack/Village of Castleton-on-Hudson
Local Waterfront Revitalization Program
Committee Kickoff Meeting Notes

February 5, 2025

7:00 – 9:00 pm

Castleton-on-Hudson Village Hall

Attendees:

LWRPC: Bob Mello (Chair) via Zoom, Suzanne Cecala, Thomas Phillips, Ken Malloy, Michael Wiley, Lissa D'Aquanni

Consultants: Adriana Beltrani, AICP (NPV), Kathy Ember, AICP (P4P),

NYS DOS: Dale Robinson (via Zoom)

1) Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Change to acronym to COHMSA for Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association
- Update names for Ms. Cecala and Mr. Malloy.
- Ms. Beltrani will accept the changes, and the team will post the agenda and meeting notes to the project website.

2) Public Outreach Discussion

- Review of Public Participation Plan
 - The LWRPC list was updated.
 - The project schedule was updated. The LWRPC discussed having the focus groups and stakeholder interviews (as needed) following Public Workshop #1 to receive feedback on proposed projects. The survey will be released prior to the Public Workshop (in April) and be open through the pop-up events in the summer. Focus groups will follow Public Workshop #1.
 - The LWRPC decided to group the focus groups as follows: government and civic groups. It was also suggested that there be a separate meeting with the County and the local State representative. Stakeholder interviews will be for those that are not able to make the focus group dates.
 - The stakeholder list was reviewed and revised including contact information.
 - Pop-up events that could be attended to spread the word include Riverkeeper Sweep, the Farmer's Market, and the Memorial Day Parade. The LWRPC suggested the Consultant Team attend Horsepower on the Hudson on August 2nd and a Music in the Park event. It was also suggested that the Village Garage Sale in September would be a good event to attend.

- Public Workshop #1 – LWRPC will ask for feedback on the vision and potential projects with a focus on “what is missing.”
- Workshop locations include the Fire House, the Town Hall, the Elementary School, and the Ambulance Center. The LWRPC will investigate dates available for a June Public Workshop.
- Comments on Website
 - Ms. Beltrani shared the website. Ms. Cecala requested that a search bar be added if possible. The LWRPC can share the website link to the Town and Village.
- Stakeholder updates and Next Steps
 - Ms. Beltrani summarized the next steps, which includes drafting the survey and materials which will be sent to the LWRPC for review.
 - The LWRPC will also finalize the list of stakeholders.
 - The LWRPC will look at possible June dates and locations for the first public workshop and confirm the pop-ups to be attended by the Consultant Team.
 - Ms. D’Aquanni noted that the Castleonian newsletter will be sent out in May which can advertise the survey, the upcoming workshop, and the project website.
 - Mr. Wiley stated that the school district can also send out flyers.

3) Finalize WRA Boundary

- Ms. Beltrani confirmed with DOS that the boundary can be adjusted to accurately reflect the Village boundaries. Mr. Robinson noted that the existing WRA Boundary can’t be expanded wholesale unless it relates to the Hudson River itself. The LWRPC discussed whether the boundary should be adjusted and reviewed topography, parcel lines, land use, and project maps related to the current boundary.
- Mr. Robinson noted an inconsistency between the WRA boundary and the 1995 LWRP boundary description. The WRA bumps out following Village owned park property just south of the Village boundary but was not described in the 1995 LWRP. This description will need to be added. Mr. Robinson read a description he found in the files. The area could be revised based on the property boundary/deed description. The LWRPC confirmed that the parcel was left to the Village by the Schermerhorn family to be used as a park, and it is identified as an LWRP project.

- The current boundary is 2000 feet on either side of Route 9J. There was some discussion about how this was measured (centerline or from the edge of the roadway).
- The LWRPC discussed that the Complete Streets study includes using the powerline area for a trail. This information should be shared with the LWRPC.

4) Discussion of Proposed Projects/Prioritization

- Schodack Island State Park will be doing a major project and asked the Village for a letter of support. The project includes dredging and recreating islands that are closed off. They held a meeting at the Village Hall.
 - The LWRPC noted that it would be great to have sidewalk access to the State Park. See the Complete Streets plan for further discussion.
- Creating a multi-municipal trail system connecting to the waterfront would be a priority project. This would include connecting to the Empire State Trail.
- Cow Island – The LWRPC would like to explore creating a trail and kayak launch near the Water Treatment Center with a boardwalk along the Hudson River shoreline to Riverfront Park. Ospreys and eagles' nests are found there. The boardwalk would have benches. Long-term there is an opportunity to have a larger boardwalk system. The Consultant Team will look for precedent examples of boardwalks/floating docks that are flood resilient.
- Campbell Island – includes land owned by OGS, the Land Trust, and a private owner. This project would not be a priority project, but a long-term project.
- People park at the top of Brookview Road and swim at the waterfalls at Moordener Kill.
- River Rest Park – could be graded to make the ground even and used for an event space or the grade could be used to utilize as an amphitheater. This location has beautiful sunsets and is great for bird watching.
- Riverfront Park and Access – The Village has renderings previously prepared that could be used for the LWRP. The LWRPC discussed inviting Scenic Hudson for discussion of at-grade access and pursuing legislation to allow for at-grade access.

5) Meeting Wrap Up/Next Steps:

- Field Visit – The LWRPC discussed scheduling an April site visit. Mornings or Saturday are possibilities. The Consultant Team will follow up with possible dates. Alternatively, the Consultant Team could do some site visits during Riverkeeper Sweep in May.

- Pop-up events and Public Workshop #1 date and locations will need to be finalized.
- The LWRPC will finalize the stakeholder list.
- Draft materials will be sent by email to the LWRPC.
 - The Public Participation Plan will be shared next time as a Word document so that the group can edit the document directly.
 - The Draft Survey and materials will be sent via email and uploaded to One Drive.
 - The next meeting will be on April 2nd at 7 PM.