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**Esopus Riverfront – Access and Connections Study**  
**Riverfront Project Committee Meeting #2**  
**June 5, 2019**  
**Summary Meeting Notes - APPROVED**

**Attendance:**

*Riverfront Project Committee (RPC):* Mercedes Ross, RPC Chairwoman; Shannon Harris, Town Supervisor; Chet Allen, Diane Dintruff; Margaret Phelan; Kathie Quick; Eli Schloss; Dale Wolfeld; Marion Zimmer; Heather Blaikie, Scenic Hudson, Rita Shaheen, Scenic Hudson

*Also Present:* Jared Geuss, Town Councilman; Alex Dean, Outreach Coordinator; Joan Burroughs, John Burroughs Assoc.

*Planning Team:* Matthew Rogers, Senior Planner, Laberge Group; Joshua Westfall, AICP, Planner, Laberge Group

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Ross at 5:05 PM.

**Approval of Minutes:** Margaret Phelan moved, seconded by Marion Zimmer to approve the minutes of the May 8<sup>th</sup> 2019, Waterfront Advisory Board/Riverfront Project Committee Meeting, with one minor modification – page 6 last sub bullet of the Freer Park section. The sentence will be modified as follows ...“Heather Blaikie suggested a launch be added to the park which would be suitable for Chester as it is moored there. With the word “moored” replacing a word stored as written in the draft minutes. It was clarified that the Chester is moored off Freer Park during the cutting season and stored at the Highway Dept. garage during the winter. The motion was unanimously carried.

\* It was also clarified during minute approval that Chester is launched each spring from Freer Park (northern shoreline) and each fall pulled out at this location. The committee briefly discussed no shoreline improvements are necessary related to launching or pulling Chester out.

Chairwoman Ross then turned the Riverfront Project Committee Meeting over to Laberge Group to facilitate.

**Meeting Discussion:**

**Review of Public Meeting and the Evenings Meeting**

- Mathew Rogers discussed changes over the original plan of meetings for the evening. Rogers said that very few stakeholders had indicated they would be in attendance, and those that did, stated that their attendance was tentative.

- Rogers reconfirmed this with Alex Dean who agreed. Dean stated that Jesse Hicks would be available remotely and that he would call him at the time necessary.
- Rogers also asked Dean if he would greet any stakeholders who arrive, Dean confirmed he would.
- Rogers summarized the Public Meeting in brief and described comments received. Citing comments received such as current use conflicts; road; pedestrian and bicycle circulation issues; wetland protections; provisions for refuse; needs for greater or lesser access; safety, unleashed animals; no alteration of the shore front rocks at Lighthouse Park; no need for the expansion of parking at Lighthouse Park, and concerns for the removal of the bulkhead at Freer Beach.
  - Marion Zimmer asserted that the Lighthouse parking lot needed to be expanded and that expansion has been supported by the committee and was not opposed at the meeting by the general public, except the one individual that spoke against it.
  - Councilwoman Kathie Quick confirmed that only one person at the public meeting was against expanding the parking lot at Lighthouse Park and that she supported Zimmer's statement, agreeing that there needs to be more parking at this location.
  - Rogers also agreed that additional parking was needed at Lighthouse Park, especially ADA compliant spaces.
  - Chet Allen asked for clarification on the natural shoreline and stated that that moving the rocks would not worsen erosion or affect any other Park features.
  - Quick stated at the time the Board didn't know that the boulders were being removed from the shoreline at the time for the project (artistic work).
  - Chairwoman Ross clarified that it was all man made and not natural which may not have been clear to the commenter at the Public Meeting.
  - Zimmer showed the committee the publication *Managing Shore Zones for Ecological Benefits Handbook*, by Hudson River Sustainable Shorelines. The handbook provides examples regarding natural shorelines. Dintruff stated that this was available at the Nature Conservancy in New Paltz. Supervisor Harris requested to review the publication. [www.hrnerr.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2019/02/273743856-Shorezones-Handbook-3.pdf](http://www.hrnerr.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2019/02/273743856-Shorezones-Handbook-3.pdf)
- Rogers asked if all in attendance were in agreement with the notes as written for Public Meeting #1. All found these notes agreeable.
- The following discussion focused on the five Parks and Preserves for the purposes of seeking Committee confirmation on initial improvement ideas and to discuss related outstanding information.

### Black Creek Preserve

- Rogers mentioned the State's Consolidated Funding Application (CFA), due in late July and asked that Blaikie describe the CFA that Scenic Hudson plans to submit this round to the State.
  - Blaikie described that for 2019 State funding, Scenic Hudson will submit two applications for Black Creek Preserve. She described that it would support the efforts already put forth into the John Burroughs Black Creek Trail. She described the trail corridor as being significant to the region, terminating at Black Creek Preserve. Blaikie described how the trail connects the Hudson River where it meets the Black Creek to Illinois Mountain in the Town of Lloyd, and creates a natural corridor ideal for a multitude of uses which will ultimately support the Empire State Trail as it is in the immediate vicinity.
  - Blaikie went on to say that the primary focus of these grant applications will be to improve access into the site along the current roadway and improve the day use area at the terminus of the trail (the new portion of the park, being the former Winding Brook Acres property).

- Blaikie mentioned specific improvements that Scenic Hudson plans to do at the Preserve including expanding the Preserve's parking lot off US Rt. 9W to the north, to increase parking spaces and provide ADA accessible parking. She also mentioned ensuring that parking was most efficient as possible with the inclusion of some type of parking space markings.
- Blaikie stated that she wanted to speak to the committee about this, and request they give strong and defined feedback, which will be used to support this application and any improvements envisioned. She also requested a written letter of support from the whole committee. She asked that the committee consider improvements at the former Winding Brook property as that's where the application will seek improvements on and provide better access to.
- Rita Shaheen handed out a few printed copies of John Burroughs Black Creek Trail materials illustrating trail branding and the trail location from its beginning to its terminus at Black Creek Preserve. Shaheen explained the handouts that the Committee had received.
- Blaikie stated that the two grants Scenic Hudson are seeking for improvements at the Preserve was the EPF (Environmental Protection Fund) and RTP (Recreational Trails Program) [both administered by State Parks].
- Dintruff asked how the John Burroughs Black Creek Trail and the improvements would link to the other adjacent trails to the north and south and mentioned the connection at Wurtz Street Bridge into Kingston's trails.
  - Blaikie stated that it was in proximity to the trails, and that it would be linked to the Empire State Trail.
- Rogers asked for clarification from Blaikie as to what she was requesting of the committee.
- Blaikie stated that Scenic Hudson has already identified that they will expand the parking lot and that they will need to smooth out the road and bring the bridge up to code for pedestrians and bicyclists. She reiterated that this road will not allow public vehicle access, only pedestrians/bicyclists along with authorized vehicles for maintenance and emergency situations. She cited that widening of the road was not possible due to terrain and the site's natural geography and the presumed ecological impacts on the Creek, and would require permits and likely cost-prohibitive. Blaikie stated that the 0.6 mile road would be part of the RTP application.
- Blaikie solicited additional suggestions and briefly discussed the previous recommended improvements from the PowerPoint. She stated that some of those displayed could be funded through other opportunities which were not part of the CFA process and that Scenic Hudson is seeking to maximize its benefit in these applications by focusing on which can be funded at the highest value at this time.
- Blaikie said that the kayak storage stations and the siting on the water trail were both attainable and confirmed with the Committee that desired storage would be located near the site's boat launch. She also confirmed at that time that if this is the use going forward repairs would be done as part of the overall bulkhead assessment project.
- Blaikie discussed fishing location and fish cleaning stations and the locations, types, and needs.
  - Dale Wolfield stated that she didn't feel fish cleaning stations were appropriate at this location due to maintenance and based on her knowledge and experience, many people who fish in this area fly fish and don't clean their fish in the field.
  - Supervisor Harris felt the fish cleaning stations were needed, and that any picnic tables that are placed in this park would be subject to become de-facto fish cleaning stations, ruining the tables, and impeding the enjoyment of other patrons who seek to picnic at the Preserve. The group was in general agreement with Supervisor Harris.
  - No final decision on providing fish cleaning stations or the siting of stations was made.

- Blaikie told the Committee that all the structures were removed from the property except the pavilion and a single family residential structure. Blaikie stated that Scenic Hudson does not currently have a plan in place for using the dwelling.
- Shaheen identified an area in Black Creek Preserve that now has high quality views that was unrealized until a cabin was removed.
  - Blaikie stated that it is significantly different there since removal of structures and that it mimics an “Arboretum” due to the quality and age of the nearby trees, open lawn, and other natural conditions.
- Blaikie asked the committee to consider additional elements desirable for the site and was seeking clear direction from the Committee.
- Blaikie asked about pavilions and what size and type of a pavilion was most desired. She asked what they were looking for in a canoe/ kayak launch and/or storage area.
- Councilwoman Quick asked about benches and where they would be located. Shaheen described possible areas and said they would also be located along the parks access road.
- Blaikie then asked the Committee for additional detail as to what they felt would be appropriate for the pavilion and provisions for picnic tables.



- Rogers discussed the varying types and styles that the Committee could consider and cited specific examples as the two at Esopus Meadows Preserve, describing the larger one located adjacent to the main entrance and the smaller one located at the southern portion of the Park.
- Phelan felt that a smaller one may be more appropriate at this location and shared her enjoyment for a pavilion she knows at Esopus Bend Preserve in Saugerties. She described it as being able to fit about six picnic tables under its roof and reported that she would take photos for the group.
- Dintruff described the riverside pavilion at Norrie Point as being a nice structure and felt that that would be a nice addition to the Park.
- Supervisor Harris felt that the pavilion should be sited on top of the now filled in pool.
- Rogers stated that per Meeting #1, Scenic Hudson had indicated that if a pavilion is to be constructed, it should be located along the tree edge as to keep it out of view from those traveling in the river and from the other side of the river. There was brief discussion within the committee about siting and size.
- Shaheen asked Eli Schloss if he would be willing to bring the school children there [which he does in his professional role at Hudson River Clearwater Sloop].
  - Schloss said yes, but mentioned the long walking distance as a concern and that this distance may be bad for large groups.
  - Schloss asserted that the Committee recommendation should not duplicate something that already exists a short ways away in reference to Esopus Meadows Preserve. The committee agreed that one as large as the one at Esopus Meadows was not needed.
- Supervisor Harris felt that in regards to a pavilion, the Committee should consider all uses including school trips and youth summer camps. Specifically, she felt that any facilities constructed should be built for larger crowds for youth, family, and community activities. She stated that the best location maybe over an existing foundation as it is already graded. She urged the rest of the committee to



Pavilion at Norrie Point  
Provided by Diane Dintruff

consider larger size pavilions for youth in the community and stated that the hike back to the structure could be a learning experience in itself.

- Rogers acknowledged Supervisor Harris' recommendations and that the Committee should take all of the potential uses into account when considering the siting and size of a desired pavilion.
- Blaikie asked if the launch repair was a priority.
  - Rogers asked if the garage that was located on the site was removed.
    - Blaikie confirmed the garage was removed and the underlying concrete pad was in poor condition, worse than Scenic Hudson had expected.
  - Rogers asked if Scenic Hudson intended to use this location for canoe and kayak storage.
    - Blaikie stated that they would assess this.
  - Phelan noted that it is a long haul to launch a canoe or kayak from the parking lot since the access road was not available to vehicular traffic.
  - Shaheen asked Dintruff if she would bring her kayak back to the new boat launch. Dintruff said she would most likely launch from Norrie (State Park) and travel across the River to the Preserve.
- Rogers asked Blaikie and Shaheen if the intention is to pave further into the new property (Winding Brook Acres). Blaikie said they may go further for the primary purpose of establishing an adequate turn-around location.
- Councilwoman Quick asked if a bike rack was being considered.
  - Blaikie said yes, at the beginning and end of the trail (access road).
- Shaheen said there will be benches along the trail.
- The discussion came up regarding the existing house and what it would be used for.
  - Shaheen said it may be for a site caretaker or seasonal living for someone who is affiliated with the John Burroughs Association.
  - Shaheen that Scenic Hudson has yet to fully inspect the condition of the structure which will be necessary to understand the types of uses the structure could be support.
  - Councilwoman Quick asked if it could be an interpretive center. Shaheen said they have considered it.
  - Blaikie said she felt there would be issues related to management of such a facility.
  - Wolfield asked if Scenic Hudson considered a steward program used in other locations, which could live within the park and work as a care taker or the like.
  - Shaheen said Scenic Hudson was not aware of the specific program and was not sure who ran and funded it. She will have to find out more information.
  - Schloss asked if the park steward was part of the boat cleaning program. It was confirmed it is not.
- Blaikie asked about the vendors which were discussed at Freer park, particularly canoe and kayak vendors, and if the committee would support a rotation of vendors around parks within Esopus. She felt this could be an opportunity for visitors walking in as a kayak or canoe would be available to rent when they arrive.
  - The committee seemed in agreement that this would be a suitable and desired use in the park.

- Dintruff stated that she knew individuals who may be interested in providing this service at Black Creek, or other locations around Town and mentioned examples or individuals who would likely be interested.
- Dintruff felt that with a pavilion, Black Creek would be a nice location for seniors to go.
  - Councilwoman Quick and Supervisor Harris felt seniors could not easily access the site due to the long pedestrian only access road.
  - Wolfield mentioned that possibly seniors could utilize golf carts to access the site.
  - Shaheen mentioned that it was possible to accommodate groups accessing the site by bus, with pre-notice.
- Schloss asked if the vendors Blaikie mentioned (kayak and canoe rental) would be able to use the road when they are to be located at this site.
  - Blaikie confirmed they would have the ability to do this.
- Schloss and Wolfield strongly supported the ability for bus transportation within the park for seniors, considering it an attractive idea.
- Schloss asked if this access for seniors and vendors would just be for special days or available all the time? He also asked if the public would be able to do this on special days.
  - Blaikie said that this would only be available special days and that no, the general public would not have any access to the site via vehicle at any time.
- Seeking to wrap up the discussion on Black Creek Preserve, Rogers asked Heather to re-state what is needed from the Committee for Scenic Hudson's application to New York State.
  - Blaikie said she would like to add documentation of the Committee's feedback on these improvements which showed their support.
  - She said she would like minutes reflecting this discussion to be provided by the committee and letter of support from the committee.
  - Rogers asked if the Committee was comfortable supporting this application.
    - All agreed and were in support of the applications.
  - Supervisor Harris restated her support for opening the road.
    - Shaheen supported the idea but stated that administration of that was too difficult especially if there was a pavilion or other amenities located within the park. She noted this particularly about garbage removal.
  - Speaking on the pavilion, Supervisor Harris stated that the Town Clerk handles reservations and payments for the current pavilions in Town and that the Town will soon be renting out an additional pavilion at the St. Remy Park. As the Town takes reservations and schedules Supervisor Harris offered the Town's services for taking reservations on Scenic Hudson property and to help with litter removal.
    - Blaikie and Shaheen felt that this would be a good partnership. However, it would be necessary for them to discuss the idea and logistics with Scenic Hudson – no decision was made at this stage on this opportunity.
  - Councilwoman Quick felt that there should be a way for people to know if they are walking in, whether the pavilion is occupied instead of traveling the distance on foot to find if it is taken. No solution was identified.
  - Rogers asked if the Committee felt that the pavilion should be large or small.
    - The committee didn't think a large pavilion was necessary.

- Supervisor Harris felt that picnic tables should be available outside of the pavilion for those who wish to come for day use that may not be associated with a party.
  - Support for this was echoed by the committee.
- Rogers asked if the bridge is suitable for emergency vehicles.
  - Shaheen said that they will need to add railings for pedestrian protection however it can easily carry vehicles across. She cited that the fire departments recently crossed the bridge with emergency vehicles during practice drills on the structures which have since been removed.
- Blaikie indicated she would prepare a letter for the Committee's signature.
  - Supervisor Harris asked that the Project Logo be placed on the letter.
- Final agreed improvements as follows:
  - Improve the boat launch and evaluating the integrity of the breakwall.
  - Addition of kayak storage racks/sheds near boat launch.
  - Establish form trail connections from the new property.
  - Designate fishing access and possible cleaning stations along the Black Creek.
  - Establish a formal picnic facility/area, and construct a pavilion.
  - Consider providing a restroom.
  - Establish a turn-around location for the paved access road (Winding Brook Rd.).
  - Protect the sensitive vegetation on the northern peninsula.
  - Provide additional interpretive signage as needed.
  - Possible Town and Scenic Hudson partnership on pavilion maintenance and administration.

### Freer Beach

- Rogers identified the need to repair or replace the bulkhead with natural material.
  - He clarified that an engineer's evaluation would be necessary and that the Town was planning to seek funding through the next round of the Estuary grant program.
    - [NOTE: The Town has since decided not to pursue the Estuary grant because the Riverfront Access and Connections Project is not far enough along and additional work is needed for the Town to be fully prepared to move forward.]
  - Dintruff thought that a combination of different types of shoreline stabilization techniques at different locations may work the best.
- Moving on Rogers discussed the idea of concession at existing buildings. He stated he didn't think that the Park had enough use where a concession stand would be profitable and as a result this may not be in the best interest for the Town to pursue.
- Rogers asked for confirmation of what was stored in the larger storage building.
  - Phelan stated that the Chester Row Boat was in there now.
  - Wolfield stated that there was a lot of other items.
- Rogers asked about the Maritime Museum, their use of the Park and the northerly most structure.

- Supervisor Harris reported that the Maritime Museum would not be using the Park this year as there was insurance issues, but stated that they are interested as far as she has heard. She said she hopes that next season they will have insurance issues worked out and be able to use the facility and the Park.
- Wolfield reported that she has knowledge that the museum was satisfied with their current situation, utilizing the “floating classroom” and the organization was no longer considering Freer Park Beach. A brief discussion ensued about the amenities offered by the sailing school and the floating classroom.
- The future plans of the Hudson River Maritime Museum must be confirmed to assist the Town is planning improvements at Freer Park.
- The conversation then turned back to the renting of facilities in the Park, particularly the rental of underutilized buildings for canoe/ kayak storage. Supervisor Harris asked for specific recommendations from the Committee on how to proceed.
  - Wolfield felt that a lottery would be the fairest option for providing rentable space.
  - Supervisor Harris asked how best to announce this. She suggested social media, the committee was in general agreement.
  - Phelan stated that she knew that Carol Carson-Tomassetti (absent) who is largely responsible for Chester operations, wanted to maintain the Chester rowboat in the current seasonal location, that being the northerly most structure. She explained that this was the most reasonable location and that it was nearest to where Chester is moored, making it easy for volunteers to drag the boat to the shore.
  - Supervisor Harris stated that she would like to have a site visit at all of the park structures in order to understand needs and possible offerings, and what they are now being used for.
  - Chet Allen asked that if boat storage would be permitted in the winter. The committee agreed that this could be reasonable and Zimmer suggested perhaps it could be at a lower monthly rate as compared to summer.
  - Wolfield suggested those individuals who store boats at this location, when and if permitted, should sign some type of waiver stating that if the monthly lease of space cost is not paid, then the Town has the right to remove the boat and do with it whatever is necessary.
  - Phelan said there should also be liability waivers.
  - Rogers stated that Joshua Westfall looked into other municipal long-term canoe/kayak storage site/facilities along the river and within the area and found none operated by local governments. Rogers described Long Dock, a Scenic Hudson property, where this occurs, but is managed by Scenic Hudson.
    - The Supervisor asked Blaikie and Shaheen for more information on Long Dock which she would like to use as an example when considering the use at Freer Beach. In discussion it was noted that further north at Ram’s Horn there is a location for kayak/ canoe storage [exact details were not discussed].
  - Rogers felt that the best location for the boat storage was in the northernmost structure in the Park, however noted the conflict of the Chester rowboat and the commonly used fishing area.
    - Wolfield mentioned that the water is typically deeper adjacent to the Park in this location and this is why it is typically fished with more frequency.
    - Rogers asserted that signage could be added to designate fishing the location.
    - Allen felt that there would not be much conflict as described by Rogers and pointed out that this area is commonly fished during Stripper season and that the season is in early spring, whereas most canoers and kayakers would use the area in mid to late spring until early fall.

- Wolfield described the needs for Chester at this location and that this is where it was easy put into the water due to natural geography and that this is the location where Chester would come to shore for fuel.
  - Wolfield felt that the optimal siting for a canoe and kayak launch would be in the central portion of the park, adjacent to the large storage building and main parking lot where there was previously a launch.
  - There was discussion that the distance from the proposed northern storage structure was longer than many individuals would want to travel with their boats to put them in the water. There was also discussion about the remnants of the former launch and the extreme erosion that has taken place along the central and southern shores of the Park.
- Supervisor Harris asked about erosion at the southern end of the Park and if it was possible and would be good to take some of the land which was lost in the erosion process, establishing a seawall where the former one was located and filling in the back.
    - Zimmer noted and pointed out on aerial imagery that you can still see the former seawall as it is now underwater.
    - The Committee discussed the issue with the southern sea wall but did not come to a decision on reclaiming any lost land.
    - [NOTE: Rogers visited the site on June 18 and determined that a low sea wall is still present at the southern end of the Park – refer to picture.]
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- Freer Park Southern Wall
- The Supervisor asked about the next round of the Estuary Grant program and what it should be used for.
    - Rogers confirmed that it would be advisable to use it for a design and engineering study of how best to protect Freer Park from erosion and wave action. He again, mentioned a variety of methods that this protection could be ensured.
    - [NOTE: The Town has since decided not to pursue the Estuary grant because the Riverfront Access and Connections Project is not far enough along and additional work is needed for the Town to be fully prepared to move forward.]
  - At this point the meeting had elapsed about one hour and fifteen minutes. Stakeholder interviews were allotted to being after six. As only one stakeholder had confirmed for the meeting and was to participate via telephone, Rogers suggested that he be interviewed separately when more stakeholders can be included at a later date.
    - This was acceptable to the committee and Dean “messed” Jesse Hicks advising him of the Committee’s decisions.
  - Continuing in discussion on Freer Park, Supervisor Harris stated that the Buildings and Grounds Department was seeking to remove a majority of the trees along the River’s edge at the Park. Supervisor Harris reported that the Department had asserted that the trees were either dead, dying, or diseased.
    - Rogers recommended the Supervisor seek advisement from an arborist as he felt the trees were an important feature of the Park.
    - Zimmer stated she remembered planting many trees in the Park and that if any are to be removed they should be replaced.
    - Allen said that the trees that are located along the shoreline benefit the Park, provide shade and help stabilize the shoreline.
    - There was consensus among the Committee that the trees should be maintained in the Park.
    - Blaikie suggested that additional trees be added to the Park around the playground area for shade.

- Phelan stated that any new trees should not be cottonwoods.
- Supervisor Harris discussed planned repaving of the parking lot.
  - The Committee felt some trees could be incorporated into the parking lot.
  - Allen felt it was necessary for the unofficial northern parking area be paved as it is a common parking area for fishermen and gets muddy/rutted out. He also discussed that the fisherman drive onto the park lawn by removing the bollards that block access from the Jay Rd. right-of-way.
    - Rogers suggested alternate methods to ensure that the removal of bollards does not continually occur. Rogers also discussed the paving of the northern area and the need.
- Rogers discussed that there was limited room to expand the parking area adjacent to the pavilion due to slope constraints from the higher J Road.
  - Councilwoman Quick felt the lot could be expanded further east toward the pavilion.
  - Wolfield felt the lot could be expanded further south.
  - Dintruff asked if a parking lot could be created at the end of Tilden Street.
    - Rogers discussed the dead end street provides access to a residence and that a parking lot in this location would negatively impact the neighborhood.
- Zimmer discussed her idea that an ADA compliant pavilion could be created at the southernmost building in the Park. She discussed that there was already a paved driveway that gave access to the structure/ area.
  - Rogers raised concerns that the hill is steep and might not be suitable for wheelchairs and others with mobility issues. Rogers did agree that the building should be removed and that this location may be logical for a small pavilion/ seating area provided adequate safeguards could be put in place.
- Rogers discussed the small bathroom structure in the parking lot which are not associated with the pavilion rental. He suggested that they be moved to a safer location, out of the parking lot. This would also provide additional space for parking and improvements to the parking lot circulation pattern.
  - Supervisor Harris supported the discussion of relocating the small bathrooms.
  - Zimmer also supported this idea and noted they could be closer to the Park storage building southeast of the pavilion, near the main parking lot and kiosk location. She explained there is already the bathrooms and kitchen adjacent to this area, that utility and infrastructure connections shouldn't be a problem.
  - Blaikie asked if this location in discussion was outside of the current and future flood plain. It was determined that this could easily be sited outside of any current and future flood plain with inspection of the constraints map created by the Laberge Group based on available State and Scenic Hudson data.
- Councilman Jared Geuss felt that the canoe and kayak storage idea has the potential of being a major feature of the Park. Geuss asked what the Town's purpose would be in providing this service (offset park maintenance costs, provide and new source of revue, etc.).
  - Geuss suggested that a number of huts could be built into the hill between J Road and the parking lot. These structures could be relatively small and with roofs flush with the upper roadway. Many in the Committee liked this idea.
- The Committee agreed to all improvements as described in the PowerPoint given by Rogers. Recommendations are as follows:
  - Evaluate the feasibility of repairing the bulkhead or replacing all or a portion with a nature-based shoreline.
  - Addition of accessible picnic tables.
  - Provide an accessible fishing access spot – no location was agreed upon.

- Designate a fishing area with cleaning station.
- Reprogram the parking lot and circulation (fishing, canoe/kayak, day-use).
- Repave the parking lot and identify areas to remove existing impervious surfaces.
- Designate ADA compliant parking spots.
- Remove the unused former lifeguard changing station and determine future use for this area.
- Move forward with constructing low-maintenance pedestrian connection at Tilden Street – the change in grade from Minturn St. to the Park is too great to provide a connection without stairs.
- Construct a new/relocate existing small bathroom out of the parking lot.
- Designate an accessible hand launch site.
- Replace existing signage and establish a signage maintenance plan (the signage maintenance plan should cover all Town Parks).
- Outstanding Information Needed:
  - Confirm source of the stormwater drains.
  - Determine if former lifeguard changing room can be removed (southern portion of Park).
  - Confirm status of future HRMM Sailing Club use.
  - Determine if the southern large storage building can be used for storing canoes/kayaks.

#### General Discussion

- Rogers asked Supervisor Harris if any committee or task forces were responsible for interpretive signage and kiosks town-wide.
  - Supervisor Harris said there currently is no specific group responsible for this.
- Chairwoman Ross stated that she recently received an email from Howie Slotnick which included a photograph and description of the “Port Ewen” sign on the Sleightsburgh Park concrete fishing platform. Specifically, some of the letters have fallen off the wall and should be replaced.
  - Rogers felt that this was important to be fixed and Councilwoman Quick agreed.
- Supervisor Harris asked for a concrete list from the Committee on all needed park improvements which could be provided to multiple departments and boards.
  - The list would be developed based on this and future meetings of the Committee and could be divided into immediate and long-term improvements.
  - Supervisor Harris stated that she felt a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission should sit on this Committee in order for more input and perspective.
  - Supervisor Harris also observed that although the current Parks and Recreation Commission was recently rebranded and duties were expanded, they are currently addressing summer camp issues and have yet to begin to focusing on park improvements.

#### Lighthouse Park

- Rogers stated that better programming of amenities is needed and a designated hand launch area is appropriate. He asked whether it was more desirable to launch from the northern portion or the southern portion of the Park.
  - Schloss discussed the northern portion of the park and described the fishing in that area.

- Zimmer asked where the property line went exactly. Rogers identified the approximate property boundary on a map created by Laberge Group.
- Rogers discussed the property to the immediate north of the Park. This property is owned by Ulster County and the County previously offered the parcel to the Town. The Town declined to acquire the property. Details on why and the asking price are not know.
- Rogers suggested that the property be evaluated to determine if it made sense to increase the official size of Lighthouse Park. [Note: It is presumed that people access this property for fishing. There is no signage stating that the land is not part of Lighthouse Park.]
- Rogers discussed fish cleaning stations and the possible need for them at this location and identified examples of different types of stations. Rogers stated that Laberge Group would do further research and provide multiple examples to the Committee.
- The following improvements at Lighthouse Park were agreed upon by the Committee:
  - Establish a new hand launch at the northern end of the Park.
  - Create a hand launch for the Chester rowboat near the existing storage building (southern end of the Park).
  - Add signage informing anglers of the designated hand launch locations in order to help limit use conflicts.
  - Determine if a designated fishing area is needed with or without fish cleaning stations.
  - Relocate some or all of the large rocks within the intertidal zone (previously installed as part of an art project) and incorporate them into shoreline improvements to stabilize and repair erosion.
  - Construct an accessible path to the shoreline and to the Esopus Meadows Preserve trail/bridge.
  - Add accessible picnic tables.
  - Explore Park expansion north – County parcel.
  - Identify options for expanding the parking lot and adding accessible parking stall(s).
  - Improve kiosk signage and establish a regular maintenance process for signage.
  - Install a small bike rack.
- Outstanding Questions:
  - Locate northern limits of the septic field (to assist in planning an expansion of the parking lot).
  - Determine if the County parcel is valuable to Lighthouse Park and if the Town could acquire it.

### Esopus Meadows Preserve

- Rogers observed that since proposed hand launches were discussed for Lighthouse Park, there did not seem to be a need for a launch at Esopus Meadows. Instead, wayfinding signage could be placed at Esopus Meadows directing people to the hand launches.
  - The Committee agreed.
- The Committee discussed the idea of expanding the trails from the main Esopus Meadows Preserve property to the additional Scenic Hudson lands to the south.
  - RPC Meeting #1 the idea of forming a Town/Scenic Hudson partnership to construct these new trails was discussed
  - Shaheen described the process for trail partnerships and how trail volunteers would get proper authorizations and permissions prior to construction. She described that there was both a trail

coordinator and a volunteer coordinator which would both be involved in any construction or improvements to trails by anyone other than Scenic Hudson employees.

- The Committee confirmed that Esopus Meadows is listed as a Hudson River Greenway Water Trail.
- The Committee was in agreement with the following proposed improvements at Esopus Meadows Preserve:
  - Add wayfinding signage to the Lighthouse Park hand launch areas.
  - Form a partnership between the Town and Scenic Hudson to facilitate future trail expansions on Scenic Hudson's southern property.

### Sleightsburgh Park

- Rogers discussed the need for the Town to get a handle on the types and number of visitors to Sleightsburgh Park to assist in long-term planning for improvements.
  - It was suggested that boat cleaning stewards (scheduled to be at the Park on weekends this summer) could record the number and type of visitors, where they live, and number and types of boats being launched.
  - Schloss stated that the Steward Program was only weekends and he was unsure that if they were located here this season.
  - Chairwoman Ross and Councilwoman Quick confirmed that the Stewards will be located at the park this season.
  - Allen asked if the steward (cleaning) program was mandatory. Many in the committee replied in the negative.
  - It was also suggested that the Town conduct a survey of use during the spring Striper season.
  - Chairwoman Ross stated that she will get further information on the steward program to include hours.
  - No final decision was made on the Stewards counting visitors and that the Town Board should be approached to see if this is something that can be requested of the Stewards.
- Safety and security at Sleightsburgh Park is a major concern of both the Committee and the public, as indicated during Public Informational Meeting #1.
  - Councilman Geuss discussed the Town Board decision to lock the Park between dusk and dawn. He stated that as of now the evening lock time is around 9:00 pm. However, the timeframe would be modified as the seasons change and the day's length decreases.
- Councilwoman Quick discussed the possibility of charging a fee to use the boat launch. Discussion ensued as to how best to do this and if charges were applicable to the whole Park or just the launch.
  - It was confirmed, based on Laberge Group research and interpretation by those at the meeting that the ability to charge was limited to boat launch.
  - Councilwoman Quick was unsure of the best approach for charging fees and discussed weekend only charges and a season pass system. She felt this may also alleviate parking issues.
- Zimmer asked if security cameras were approved by the Town Board and if they will be installed. It was confirmed they were approved.
- Related to parking, Chairwoman Ross recalled at the RPC Meeting #1, Shaheen discussed methods to delineate parking on non-paved surfaces and felt this would be appropriate here. Shaheen said she will get photos of this type of parking delineation from other sites.

- Allen asked about the idea of a traffic light to safely allow vehicles ingress and egress without causing conflict when using the narrow one-lane access road.
  - There was agreement that this could be a logical solution and should be considered with other alternatives.
- Rogers further discussed the access road and solutions to ensure safety.
  - Pull offs were briefly discussed including improvements to the entry way from Sleightsburgh hamlet.
  - The cutting back of reeds was discussed which is what Central Hudson has done in the past to ensure visibility.
  - Coordination with NYSDEC Regional Permitting will be needed regarding any potential pull-offs are constructed or cutting of reeds of desired.
- The Committee was in agreement with the following proposed improvements at Sleightsburgh Park:
  - Monitor Park use and determine if the Park Stewards can record visitor type and numbers – will require Town Board coordination.
  - Identify a more formal process to obtain usage statistics and conduct a survey during the spring Striper season
  - Repair signage on the fishing platform – Immediate action.
  - Open and properly maintain key trails and establish a long-term maintenance plan. Incorporate boardwalks where necessary.
  - Reconfigure parking lot.
  - Identify designating trailer parking.
  - Extend the dock (“L” dock)
  - Create a new hand launch area (north of boat ramp).
  - Improve accessible connections to the fishing pier and boat launch/designated accessible parking space(s).
  - Evaluate alternatives to increase safety of the access road which will require NYSDEC involvement if improvements will impact the wetlands.
  - Improve signage, relocate kiosk closer to trailhead/river.

#### General Discussion Items

- In regard to discrepancies between the Scenic Hudson Easement, Town Code and informational websites, Councilwoman Quick confirmed that the Town will be getting rid of the current key system for Sleightsburgh Park. The gate will remain locked or unlocked dependent on weather conditions and time of day.
- Blaikie recommended that emergency responders should be involved in this. Rogers stated he agrees and is planning to coordinate with emergency services once preliminary plans are in place.

#### Stakeholders

- During the discussion on Sleightsburgh Park at approximately 7:05, Ms. Joan Burroughs arrived who had been identified as a community stakeholder related to the John Burroughs Black Creek Trail project.
  - Joan Burroughs was formally introduced. She asked Blaikie for a brief recap regarding what was discussed to see if anything needed to be added. Rogers and Blaikie briefly spoke on the earlier

discussion and Burroughs thanked them and Scenic Hudson for ensuring that this was discussed. She had no further comments.

**Next Steps**

The next committee meeting will be held on **July 10th, 2019 at 7:00pm in Town Hall.**

The Design Workshop will be held on **July 24th, 2019 time TBD.**

***Meeting Adjourned at 7:29pm***

Meeting Notes Submitted by Laberge Group June 19, 2019