



**Town of Esopus  
Waterfront Advisory Board -  
Meeting via Zoom - Hosted by Alex Dean  
June 24, 2020 Minutes**

**Members Present:** Chairperson Mercedes Ross, Chet Allen, Dale Wolfield, Margaret Phelan, Carol Tomassetti, Vincent Coq, Eli Schloss and Marion Zimmer.

**Also Present:** Supervisor Shannon Harris (left meeting at approx. 8:40 p.m.), Town Board Member Kathy Quick, Environmental Board Member Susan Barbarisi, Heather Blaike of Scenic Hudson, Consultant Matt Rogers of the LaBerge Group and Diane Dintruff

Chairperson Ross called the meeting to order asked to take the Agenda out of order to allow Matt Rogers to present first.

RPC - Planner Rogers referenced his June 22, 2020 Study Items for discussion (annexed hereto) and requested additional comments from WAB Members to determine a consensus.

#### **Freer Park**

- Docks- consensus was that they should not be installed
- Fishing locations at all parks - consensus was defer to LWRP (hunting provisions needed to be investigated further and should be kept separate for discussion )
- Jet skis/wave runners - Freer Park not conducive as a launch - restriction for only non-motorized zero emission without specifying type of craft was acceptable.
- Bulkhead improvements - needed to be performed in conjunction with stormwater work
- Keep boardwalk -
- Traffic circulation -
- Wooden stairs - pose a hazard - majority opinion was that stone dust path was sufficient
- Benches from Tilden Street -
- Gazebo to replace bathroom -
- Allow/encourage parking at end of Tilden Street - Does not recommend

#### **Sleightsburgh Park**

- Markout parking spaces with paint as test run for parking
- Kosco - future zoning & allowed uses - will be included in LWRP update - Matt asked for any recommendations from WAB to LWRP (uses wanted or unwanted)
- Consistent maintenance of fishing pier signage

#### **Esopus Meadows Preserve**

- Future expansion of hiking trails on southern parcel
- Access to sitting/fishing area - Carol's remarked there was a small cove which was a desirable location (with minor improvement for access). Heather noted that "no swimming" signage as well as trash may be needed.
- Ongoing maintenance of Esopus Meadows Point water access site

Public comment by e-mail or Facebook was encouraged due to current situation and would be easiest to record. Comments could be taken through July 17, 2020 and the Study could then be finalized. Really need to be aggressive in getting the word out.

### **Zoning Task Force**

Planner Rogers covered Zoning changes being proposed and what parcels may be re-zoned in waterfront locations within the Town of Esopus. There will be a period, once zoning changes have been drafted, to provide same to the WAB for comment.

### **Sleightsburg Spit Access Mediation Sessions**

Carol Tomassetti was working with Chet, Margaret and Vincent to structure a proposed structure to conduct sessions. They have been working with the Media Dispute Resolution Center that could provide assistance. They would do the mediation session for free, but a fee of (\$125/hour) for the facilitation services would be required. Two facilitation meetings were being proposed, one with the residents and one for the anglers, etc. \$100 was available for WAB. Given the Town spending freeze, Carol felt members could handle 2 facilitation sessions to collect information, which would then be used as input into the actual mediation session.

### **LWRP**

Chairperson stated that it was similar to RPC project and much of the work being done could be wrapped into the LWRP. It was noted that due to the extensive work already done as part of the Comprehensive Plan and RPC, the timeframe to complete the LWRP could be shortened to a year rather than five years. Planner Rogers suggested that one of the first things WAB could do would be to review the old 1987 recommendations and determine what was currently relevant.

### **Chester**

Carol Tomassetti advised that the boat was launched the prior Monday. The weed growth was extremely aggressive this year. There were openings for volunteers but due to social distancing; only individuals who would normally be together were being placed on the boat.

Upon Motion of Margaret Phelan, seconded by Marion Zimmer, the February 26, 2020 Minutes were approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa K. Mance, Administrative Assistant

Dated: July 13, 2020

Approved August 26, 2020

## Esopus Riverfront – Access and Connections Study Items for Discussion Regarding Draft Study June 22, 2020

### Freer Park

1. Seek consensus that no dock will be proposed at Freer Park.
2. Designating fishing locations and update Park rules (includes Sleightsburgh and Lighthouse Parks as well).
  - a. Defer to LWRP or address now?
    - i. LWRP would give more opportunities to engage angler community in discussions.
  - b. Freer Park: Northern point? Southern area near Hidden Harbor?
  - c. All other locations not marked as designated fishing locations, anglers would be required to yield to people launching or coming ashore.
3. Rules: Add no jet skis/wave runners to list of prohibited watercraft?
4. Bulkhead Improvements: Discuss possible “middle of the road approach” where riprap could be placed on top and behind the existing bulkhead and plantings installed. Gaps could be left in one or more locations to allow for access.
  - a. Bulkhead evaluation to take place this summer.
5. Keep boardwalk as a recommendation with the understanding that it may be several years out and possibly modified – at grade path or similar design.
6. Traffic circulation:
  - a. Concern about the proposed turnaround at base of driveway.
  - b. Consider using temporary measures to test out circulation.
  - c. Coordinate with Highway/Parks and Recreation to conduct these test?
  - d. Alternative could be pavement markings.



Example of Temporary Traffic Calming Measures

7. Wooden stairs:
  - a. Remove or repair and add railings?
  - b. If removed, is there a need to replace with a path?
8. Install benches along path from Tilden Street.
9. Add gazebo to replace lifeguard bathroom.
10. Should the Town allow/encourage parking at end of Tilden Street for Freer Park access?

### **Sleightsburgh Park**

1. Consider having the Town mark out parking spaces using paint as a test run to find the optimal parking organization and circulation pattern.
2. Potential future zoning and allowed uses – recommendations to consider in LWRP Update?
  - a. Currently zoned Waterfront District which allows for agriculture, fishing, ship and boat building, water transportation, marinas, boat sales, restaurants, and B&Bs.
  - b. Are these sufficient uses or should the LWRP consider modifications?
3. Need more consistent maintenance of Sleightsburgh fishing pier signage.
  - a. Proper upkeep; or
  - b. Consider removing and installing more resilient signage.



**Sleightsburgh Fishing Pier Signage**

### **Esopus Meadows Preserve**

1. Will add recommendation for future expansion of hiking trails on southern parcel.
2. Access to sitting/fishing area – need input from Carol.
3. Ongoing maintenance of Esopus Meadows Point water access site – stones have begun to settle, creating an unstable walking surface.

### **General Items**

1. Garbage cans and regular collection at Town Parks.
2. Town Water Plant Site:
  - a. Add as a future possible access site and evaluate in LWRP.

- b. Consider including recommendation that the property not be sold – retained by Town if plant no longer needed.
3. Establishing priorities for recommendations (prefer they be established by the Committee).
  - a. Immediate (0-12 months)
  - b. Short-term (1-2 years)
  - c. Medium-term (2-3 years)
  - d. Long-term (3+ years)
4. Add Parks to annual Riverkeeper Sweep?
5. HRMM to be a key stakeholder and partner for water access improvements and the LWRP Update process.
6. Final Public Meeting – Coordinating with NYSDEC Estuary regarding public meeting requirements due to limitations on public gatherings. Update to be provided on Wednesday.
7. Project Schedule – Seek to have the Town Board accept a Final Report by August 4.