

Town of Germantown
Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Committee.
Zoom

October 12, 2020

Final

Members in attendance: Jen Crawford, Jan Borchert,, Martin Overington, Barbara Hughey, Karen Targove, Tony Albino, Christine Bohnsack, Jo Hills, Town Board member Kaare Christian and Jess Kuonen observing.

Location: Virtual Zoom

Meeting Minutes prepared by Jo Hills

Meeting called to order at 7:08

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of Jess Kuonen, New York Sea Grant, Hudson Estuary Resilience Specialist, has experience in flood resistance, geology, GIS, natural resources and community engagement.

Recent waterfront walks — Karen Targrove walked and was amazed at the amount of erosion since the last time she walked, and sees our work as a great way to combine land use and environmental protection for our shoreline. Martin Overington commented that he has seen lots of changes since there was some dredging at Lasher Park a few years ago.

What is a LWRP —

Jan Borchert summarized it as a comprehensive land/water use program that expresses a vision for the waterfront area, a planning and regulatory tool that allows a local community to refine Statewide coast policies to apply to the local situation. One of the

NY State Coastal Management Program policies is to protect, maintain and increase the level and types of public access to the water and there are rules and a checklist of activities that are allowed and not allowed. There is a process for applying for actions that need a permit which would not comply with these policies and having a LWRP in place gives us access to any of these applications so that we are aware of what is happening, such as work of Amtrak or others.

Review and Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the September 14, 2020 were displayed, shared, reviewed. Motion to accept minutes:

Moved by: Barbara Hughey, seconded by Tony Albino, all approved.

RFP

Hughey compared our RFP consultant requirements to other towns and the sample. Nyack and Peekskill adhered to the work plan and used a lot of work plan language. Hughey would like to see more narrative, more clarity and to include documents in the work plan as attachments not referrals.

Discussion: Our RFP does not have to be the end document but should be clear and specific, not only with our budget, but also including our expectations of the tasks that need to be done, where our strengths and expertise lie and what tasks we believe we can do ourselves, what we can do with their help, what they will do on their own. We can get the applicants' proposals and their recommendations, discuss their strengths, our strengths, and how they think the work would be best divided. The contract that we sign with the consultant will be clearer and more specific than what we started with and it will reflect the contract that we have made with the state.

We need to protect ourselves and determine what we can expect from our lawyer with the money we have apportioned for her work. Milan's plan and the public process was led by a professional (not a consultant) but a community member who stayed consistent and neutral. The town was sued by one of the applicants but the suit was settled by the State Attorney General's office in favor of the town because the professional facilitator's work was so well done. Albany has a paragraph on indemnification — the city would be held harmless in the event of omissions or objections.

We have a lot of work already done in our LWRP and Community Action Plan. Sections 6 through 8 of the RFP should be reviewed for duplication

WAC Report by Christina Bohnsack

Lasher Park flagpole meetings — Overington presented several ideas for repositioning the flag pole and the memorial so that there is more access to the park, there is a path to walk around the park, and the memorial would be more noticeable from the water. Perhaps place a stage near where the shed is and place the memorial close to the water.

Bohnsack will send Crawford more photos for the Cheviot Kiosk poll.

WAC is planning discussing the possibility of another osprey platform in Lasher Park.

Christina made a motion to close the meeting. Overington seconded it. Approved.

Next meeting Monday, November 9, 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32