

VILLAGE OF ATHENS, NY LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM #C1002603

Waterfront Advisory Committee Meeting Notes (TASK 5)

<b>COMMUNITY</b>	Village of Athens, NY
<b>PROJECT</b>	Local Waterfront Revitalization Program NYS DOS Contract #C1002603
<b>DATE</b>	September 16, 2024
<b>LOCATION</b>	Online
<b>MEETING</b>	Waterfront Advisory Committee Kick-Off Meeting
<b>VILLAGE REPS</b>	Amy Serrago, Mayor; Andrea Smallwood, WAC Chair; Todd Bernard, Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee Chair
<b>NYS DOS STAFF</b>	April Brun, Coastal Resources Specialist, LWRP Program
<b>RIVER STREET TEAM</b>	Margaret Irwin, Principal; Christina Snyder, Planner
<b>WAC</b>	See table
<b>NOTES PREPARED</b>	Christina Snyder
<b>DURATION</b>	6:00-7:00pm
<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	TBD

<b>2024 LWRP Update Steering Committee</b>
Current Waterfront Advisory Committee Members
Amy Serrago – Mayor, Village of Athens – Present
Andrea Smallwood, Current WAC Chair – Present
Caroline Gillaspie – Present Online
Paul Petramale – Present
Paul Salvino – Present
Caitlin VanValkenburg – Present
Additional LWRP Update Steering Committee Members
Lois Ballinger – Present
Todd Bernard – Present
Sheila Brady – Present
Bob Braine — Absent
Joe Dillberg – Present
Maggie Moree – Present Online
Leslie Reed – Present
Merrill Roth – Present

## KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- A. **Welcome and Introductions** – Mayor Serrago welcomed everyone, introduced consultant Margaret Irwin of River Street Planning and Development (RSPD) and invited the WAC members to introduce themselves.
- B. **NYS DOS LWRP** – April Brun, State Coastal Resources Specialist, described the NYS DOS role in the LWRP program.
- C. **Presentation** – Margaret (RSPD) presented the WAC with a full review of the DOS LWRP program and the WAC role in guiding the planning process.
- D. **Discussion Points** –
- Village of Athens LWRP Waterfront Revitalization Area Boundary (WRA):** The first issue for the WAC to consider is whether the existing LWRP boundaries for the Village – the Waterfront Revitalization Area (WRA) – makes sense. Everything in the LWRP plan will be framed within these boundaries. The Village must justify any expansion of the existing landward boundary, identify why they are important, identify acres/sq miles and have this approved by DOS.
- Note that only the east side of Middle Ground Flats is navigable – leaving Athens with a uniquely calm recreational zone along its waterfront.
  - Andrea noted trails beyond the LWRP boundary (4-mile Point) that show up in past planning documents (Comp Plan, LWRP). Parts of a trail outside the Village boundary would not be included by the proposal for a trail is a suitable project to explore further.
  - **Does Hudson have an LWRP now and does the boundary overlap? Answer:** Hudson does not have a LWRP. The Village of Coxsackie is in the process of developing a LWRP. No other adjacent community is developing a LWRP.
  - **Is there anything to the west of the Landward State Coastal Area Boundary (blue line on map) that needs to extend/change the landward boundary?**
    - Andrea: Should infrastructure on Leeds Athens Rd – such as water tank - be included? Margaret noted that the WAC will want to be careful about what is opened up for future review. Everything within the boundary will be open to review. Need a substantial justification to ask State to change this boundary.
    - Maggie – N. Vernon St. is pretty residential already within the Landward Coastal Area. So why does it extend this far west? **Answer:** According to NYS DOS LWRP records: “North Vernon Street was included in the village’s WRA for the following reason: ‘A minor revision is proposed so that the boundary follows the ridgeline in the Village, incorporating the Sleepy Hollow Lake Dam and the urbanized areas outside the historic district.’ This information came from a summary of an effort to develop a joint LWRP with the Town of Athens. The Town decided not to adopt the joint LWRP in 1997.”
    - Dam at Sleepy Hollow Lake feeds into Murderers Creek and is the back-up water for the village. **Answer:** Boundaries can’t go past village limits, but the importance of the water source can be described. While part of the Sleepy Hollow Lake residential area is in the Village, the water bodies are not.
    - Noted that the WAC can consider change to HMA boundary to regulate less of harbor – The committee did not express interest in this option.

E. **Timesheets** – Discussed how timesheets will need to be filled out for volunteer time to make the LWRP match. Time in meetings, preparing for meetings, reviewing sections of LWRP all count toward match. Todd is sharing spreadsheets for everyone to keep a running count of volunteer time. The Village must document match up to \$25K match (have put some cash into the contract so will use this first while volunteer time builds up.) Each WAC member should keep running individual time until the team requests this. NOTE: WAC members DO NOT need to put in meetings since they will be tracked – but should include time preparing for meetings etc. April confirmed that the Village only needs to send the spreadsheet tabs that apply (group and individual volunteer time).

### NEXT STEPS

- WAC members to consider the existing boundary and whether there is any strong justification to change it. In a few weeks will poll the WAC on boundaries and their thoughts on whether landward should change.
- Meeting about Inventory and Analysis will include maps – so will likely be in person. Group could review existing I&A if they would like to be familiar with original context.
- Future meetings may be held via zoom when it makes sense. The team will look into providing a spot in the Village where people can meet and zoom in jointly if more comfortable with this option.