

# Town of Porter Local Waterfront Revitalization Program

## Public Information Meeting Summary

**Date of Meeting:** September 23, 2017

**Meeting Time:** 7:00 PM

**Meeting Location:** Porter Town Hall, 3265 Creek Road, Youngstown, NY

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The second public information meeting was held on September 23<sup>rd</sup> for the Town of Porter Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP). Wendy Salvati of WWS Planning led the meeting, which was to review progress to date on the Town's LWRP. By a show of hands, about half of the audience had attended the first public meeting. In addition to the agenda, the following handouts were provided to attendees:

- A summary of issues and opportunities;
- A summary of the proposed policies;
- A summary of proposed Town projects and studies; and
- A summary of proposed local laws necessary to implement the LWRP.

Wendy Salvati introduced members of the committee overseeing the LWRP. She provided a brief overview of the project. The LWRP is a document that will guide waterfront planning and development in a manner consistent with federal and state coastal zone management policies, while enabling more local control. She went over the proposed expansion of the Local Waterfront Revitalization Area (LWRA), or boundary (see map). It was noted, in response to a question from the audience, that the LWRA excludes the Village of Youngstown, which has its own LWRP, which is currently being updated separately from this project.

**Issues and Opportunities:** a number of issues and opportunities have been identified for the LWRA in Porter. The full list was provided in a handout, but major assets include opportunities for scenic views, new trail connections, expanded public use at local parks (Porter on the Lake, State Parks). Issues or concerns include shoreline erosion, limited public access, and water quality.

**Proposed Policies:** The group was provided an overview of the proposed policies and the consistency review process. The Town will review any major proposal within the LWRA for consistency with the LWRP and its governing policies. The discussion focused on local sub-policies, as the Town cannot alter the State policies. The primary focus of the local sub-policies is on revitalizing underutilized public lands, expanding water-dependent recreational facilities, habitat protection, erosion protection, increased public access, alternative energy, green infrastructure, and prohibiting hazardous materials shipment or storage within the LWRA. It was emphasized that State (and federal) control over issues such as floodplains, wetland and stormwater management would remain in place.

**Proposed Town Projects and Studies:** Proposed projects, as listed in the handout, were discussed.

- Improving the pedestrian trail along Lower River Road: this would provide an improved connection (widened and paved pathway) to enable multi-modal recreational use between Joseph

Davis State Park to the south and other assets along the Niagara River (e.g. Village of Youngstown and Fort Niagara State Park). Attendees noted that this project would ideally entail cooperation with the Village.

- Porter on the Lake Town Park: additional enhancements to Porter on the Lake Park to increase public usage, and the installation of signage at prominent locations in the Town to publicize the facility, were suggested. Attendees noted the Town is installing a kayak launch with Greenway funds at the park.
- Seaway Trail: enhancements could include gateways and improved/increased signage.
- Erosion protection measures at Fort Niagara Beach: There was significant erosion due to high lake levels. The Town owns the lands immediately adjacent to the shoreline and all the street rights-of-way. It was clarified that intervention would be on publicly-owned lands only.
- Passive access to Six-Mile Creek for scenic views, fishing and/or birdwatching. Attendees noted that this is occurring informally, with people stopping at the bridge to enjoy the views.

***Proposed Techniques for Implementation:***

***Laws:*** The Town will need to adopt a Local Waterfront Revitalization Consistency Review Law. This law is required for all LWRP communities to establish the legal framework for the Town to ensure that activities occurring within the waterfront area are in keeping with the LWRP policies and provisions. The Town is also proposing to adopt a local Coastal Erosion Hazard Area Law, which would give the Town the authority to administer the Coastal Erosion Management program on behalf of the State. People proposing projects within the coastal erosion hazard area would obtain required permission from the Town instead of NYSDEC.

It was noted that no zoning would be changed in the waterfront area. The zoning had been updated as a part of the adoption of the Town's comprehensive Plan update in the recent past.

***Other Public/Private Projects:*** two projects were highlighted including an access connection between Four Mile Creek State Park and Porter on the Lake Park, and extension of the multi-use trail along the Niagara Scenic Parkway. Attendees stressed that local park management limits public access to Four Mile Creek State Park to campers only, and residents are not able to take advantage of bike trails, scenic views or other recreational assets in the park. There was support for the extension of a trail along the River (Route 18F) and attendees supported extending the trail along the length of Route 18 (Lake Street) instead of limiting it to the segment between Four Mile Creek State Park and Porter on the Lake Park. It was also noted that the shoulder of Lake Road (SR 18) is wide enough for bicycle use between Dietz Road and the Porter/Wilson boundary to the east, but this area should be formally identified with signage and pavement markings.

The meeting closed at approximately 8:15 pm.

*See attachments.*