

Villages of Kinderhook and Valatie
Local Waterfront Revitalization Program

Waterfront Revitalization Public Information Meeting #2 Summary

Meeting Date: Monday, June 24, 2024

Location: Martin H. Glynn Municipal Building
3011 Church St, Valatie, NY 12184

Consultants: Bob Murphy, Jr., AICP, Managing Community Planner, Barton & Loguidice (B&L)
Karen Strong, Strong Outcome

This was the second public information meeting (PIM) of the Village of Kinderhook and Valatie Local Waterfront Advisory Committee ("Committee"). The meeting was attended by members of the Committee and the B&L consultant team. The format of the meeting was an open house format that took place from 4:30-7:30pm. This allowed for members of the public to come and go at a time that works best for them. There were approximately 25 attendees.

The purpose of this meeting was to introduce the public to the project and collect feedback on potential issues and assets within the waterfront revitalization area (WRA)

Introductions

Mr. Murphy kicked off the meeting at 4:30pm by initiating a slideshow presentation that would play on a loop from 4:30-7:30pm. The agenda for the presentation was as follows:

- What is a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP)?
- Our Planning Process
- Study Area Boundary and Inventory and Analysis
- Public Input Results
- How to Share Your Ideas and Feedback

Mr. Murphy discussed the tentative schedule:

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| • Winter 2022 | Project Kick-off Meeting (WAC Meeting #1) |
| • Spring 2023 | Community Outreach Plan & Draft Inventory |
| • Fall 2023 | Issues Identification & PIM #1 |
| • Winter 2024 | Draft Actions and LWRP Policies & PIM #2 |
| • Summer 2024 | Preliminary Plan |
| • Summer 2024 | PIM #3 & Community Open House |
| • Winter 2024 | SEQR & NYS DOS Referral |
| • Spring 2025 | Village Boards Public Hearing & Final Plan |

What is a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP)?

Mr. Murphy's presentation introduced the process and benefits of an LWRP and the importance of community participation throughout the process.

Our Planning Process

The presentation introduced the project team including the Committee, consultants, and DOS representative. This section also covered the draft plan approach as well as an overview of the project schedule. Mr. Murphy mentioned that the LWRP will build upon the 2019 Kinderhook Creek Recreational Resource Inventory and the 2021 Kinderhook Creek Flood Resilience Study.

Study Area Boundary and inventory and Analysis

The presentation discussed the Waterfront Revitalization Area (WRA) which includes portions of both Villages along the Kinderhook Creek and Valatie Kill. It includes the Albany Hudson Electric Trail as well as two parks and a viewing area in Valatie.

Public Input Results

The presentation reviewed the public input results to date. This included the Community Survey and PIM #1. The survey had 247 respondents and covered a range of topics including parks, waterfront development, recreation, and more. The survey was conducted in Summer 2023. PIM #1 took place on November 15, 2023, and had 32 attendees. The format of PIM #1 was the same as PIM #2.

How to Share Your Ideas and Feedback

Attendees were encouraged to participate in the in-person feedback activity. The activity featured six topic stations (Community Development, Environmental Sustainability, Recreation, Infrastructure Improvements, Trails & Walkways, and Community Design Guidelines). Attendees were asked to visit each station, read the proposed actions, and comment on each. After reading each action, attendees were given red and green dots and asked to place green dots on proposed action statements or responses they were in favor of, and red dots on those that they were not in favor of.

A full summary of the feedback is as follows:

Community Development

Proposed Actions:

- Continue to establish regular communication channels with business owners ●
- Continue to support economic development and tourism initiatives such as festivals, sporting events, concerts, fishing, and guided tours ● ● ●

Comments:

- Start boating at Route 66 Chatham and end of Stuyvesant Falls dam. Figure out bypass for dams & Valatie Falls
- Funding is critical – multi-year support
- Differentiate between economic development focus between 2 villages. Especially in the final report
- Coordinate with Town of Kinderhook / Villages for comprehensive flood mitigation / weed & water flooding management

Environmental Sustainability

Proposed Actions:

- Plan for healthy natural areas by developing long-term strategies that address the stresses to them ● ●
- Preserve and enhance natural areas by implementing long-term strategies for healthy ecosystems ● ● ●

Comments:

- Remove dead tree in the creek
- Is there a solution for knot weed?
- KLC dam is one of the sources of invasive weed species in Kinderhook Creek? We should discuss these issues / remediation efforts
- Take a comprehensive approach to invasive plant management including parks and AHET
- Planting trees and shrubs to replace dead vegetation
- Action on invasives can have a positive effect on the whole region

Recreation

Proposed Actions:

- Create formal creek access points and designated areas for various activities such as swimming, fishing, and kayaking (and canoeing & tubing) ● ●
- Water level gauge for safer kayak access ●
- Picnicking or barbecuing amenities at the Hudson Street Landing Site ● ● ●

Comments:

- it would be great if the dam on the Valatie Kill was fixed, and Wild's Pond filled. Access to that would be a terrific resource
- bridge in Valatie over Valatie Kill has a hidden scenic view. This is a natural tourist attraction that could be revealed ● ● ● ●
- include Kinderhook Lake in any water flow related actions
- Hudson Street Landing is well on the way. Private property owners & access
- Additional public use of the creek area would need public toilets (composting ones?)
- Water level gauge is very important

Infrastructure Improvements

Proposed Actions:

- Improve pedestrian access to waterfront sites by developing multi-use trails that connect the central business districts to the creek ● ● ● ●
- Collaborate with NYS DOT on truck traffic mitigation and boat launch construction ●

Comments:

- Consider elderly boaters
- Consider zoning and site planning for future mixed-use commercial / residential developments
- KLC: coordination with ToK on dam maintenance to preserve / protect down stream flooding

- Improve pedestrian access to Pachaquack from Main Street and Diamond Street in Valatie

Trails & Walkways

Proposed Actions:

- Expand kayak launch sites, fishing platforms, scenic overlooks, and playgrounds ●
- Promote biking through signage, trail maintenance, trail connectivity to and from the Electric Trail, and events ●
- Invest in the studies and mapping needed for trails in Mill's Park and the Vly
- Export opportunities to connect downtown Valatie to Pachaquack to the north and River Street Park to the west via pedestrian bridges ●
- Create or enhance the AHET connections with public parks and creek access sites, including wayfinding and interpretive signage ● ●
- Establish a mountain bike trail at River Street Park (an informal one already exists) ●

Comments:

- Viewing overlook / boardwalk type area along the rear of buildings on Main Street along Creek with bridge to small island near dams and to Pachaquack
- Biking is critical as recreation and to promote visitors to our community

Community Design Guidelines

Proposed Actions:

- Implement a bicycle and pedestrian safety plan that generates a community identity ● ●
- Better wayfinding signage that directs people toward the Central Business Districts and the waterfront ● ●
- Better wayfinding / information signage regarding recreational activities such as kayaking, mountain biking, hiking, and swimming ● ● ●
- Community design guideline changes – a cohesive aesthetic between the 2 villages ●

Comments:

- No proposed actions related to issue of housing affordability
- Main St. Valatie has already had a tragic fatality and several pedestrian car accidents – need to be addressed
- Extend Eichybush Road sidewalk to rail trail for pedestrian safety
- Include historic context in proposed action
- Emphasize bike safety, safe lanes, reduction in speeds for cars

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