



Village of Saranac Lake

Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Update

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

Purpose: Waterfront Advisory Committee (WAC) – Meeting #3
Date and Time: Thursday, May 5, 2021, 5:00 PM
Location: Virtual (via Zoom)
Attendees: See Attached

Agenda Item	Discussion	Key Decisions & Outcomes
<p>Welcome & Schedule Update</p>	<p>Sarah Starke (MJ) welcomed everyone to the third Waterfront Advisory Committee (WAC) meeting.</p> <p>Sarah Starke (MJ) showed a month-by-month timeline of the LWRP Update process, indicating which steps have been completed as of May 2022.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Public Engagement Update</p>	<p>Sarah Starke (MJ) presented an overview of recent and ongoing public engagement outreach.</p> <p>A series of four (4) Stakeholder Group meetings were held on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at Harrietstown Town Hall in Saranac Lake to solicit input from local professionals. The four Stakeholder Groups comprised: Local & Regional Partners; Environment, Sustainability & Recreation; Business & Economic Development; Arts, History & Community.</p> <p>Highlights of the input received from Stakeholders included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Limited crossings to Lake Flower ○ ADA, bike/ped access to Lake Colby • Access to/from Rail Trail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safe connections to Downtown ○ Potential for connections to other trails 	<p>N/A</p>

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<p>Public Engagement Update (Cont'd)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● River Street Corridor ○ Improvements to bike/ped infrastructure ○ Streetscape improvements ● Activate the Waterfront ○ Make Lake Flower a waterfront destination ○ Linear art/interpretive pathway ○ Native plantings ● Public restrooms ● Utilities infrastructure ○ Need for Water improvements along 86 (coordinate with DOT roadwork) ○ Potential for solar/methane capture at wastewater plant <p>Public Workshop #1 was held on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at Harriestown Town Hall in Saranac Lake. A virtual event with the same agenda was held online via Zoom on Thursday, April 28. Both the in-person and virtual workshops were open to the public and provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LWRP Overview ● Waterfront Revitalization Area (WRA) boundary map ● Existing conditions inventory mapping <p>The Public Workshops elicited input from community members regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opportunities and assets in the WRA ● Challenges and needs within the WRA ● Visioning for the community <p>Feedback during the virtual Public Workshop was elicited through facilitated breakout discussions.</p>	

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<p style="text-align: center;">Public Engagement Update (Cont'd)</p>	<p>Public Workshop #1 helped to identify key assets in the Village:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake Flower waterfront • Lake Colby beach • Saranac River • Rail Trail • Community spirit • Environmental focus • Safe community <p>Similarly, this Public Workshop helped identify some of the opportunities to improve the community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake Flower walking path • Improve canoe put in/take out, possible racks • Rental facilities • Intentioned seating space • Fishing access • Native planting along the buffer • Connectivity between Rail Trail and community assets • Affordable/free recreation opportunities • Public restrooms • Additional docking <p>Some of the Challenges and Needs identified during Public Workshop #1 were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe connections across River Street • Sidewalk improvements (Kiwassa Rd) • Bike lanes • Bike/ped improvements to Lake Colby Beach 	

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<p>Public Engagement Update (Cont'd)</p>	<p>Challenges and Needs (Continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding/erosion • Beach on Lake Flower • Additional parking • Balance economy, recreation & environment • Better use of waterfront properties • Littering • Housing & impact of short-term rentals <p>The online Waterfront Survey was also launched on April 26th and will remain open until June 17, 2022, in an effort to gather input from both seasonal and year-round Village residents.</p>	
<p>Draft LWRP Vision & Discussion</p>	<p>Sarah Starke (MJ) presented a Draft LWRP Vision to the WAC to elicit input. The Draft Vision incorporates WAC, Stakeholder and Public feedback.</p> <p>The text of the LWRP Draft Vision read as follows:</p> <p><i>“The Saranac Lake waterfront will be a destination, providing water access and amenities for all ages, abilities and income levels. Saranac Lake will leverage its unique location by improving public spaces, supporting water-based and water-dependent uses, and enhancing bicycle, pedestrian and blueway connections throughout the Village and the region.</i></p>	

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<p>Draft LWRP Vision & Discussion (Cont'd)</p>	<p>LWRP Draft Vision (Continued)</p> <p><i>The waterfront area will maintain a balance of development and resource protection through the implementation of green infrastructure techniques and best management practices.”</i></p> <p>The WAC members in attendance provided feedback on the Draft LWRP Vision. Feedback included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desire for Vision to be as unique as Saranac Lake • “Sustainable” is a word that captures ethos • The amount of/proximity to water are unique features • Incorporating “year-round” acknowledges winter activities such as ice fishing and the ice castle festival • Accentuating a “partnership with nature” or ecology would capture local aspirations • The views of surrounding mountains and hills are a defining feature of Saranac Lake, as well 	

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Initial Projects Discussion	<p>Sarah Starke (MJ) presented the Key Project Categories, which derived from WAC, Stakeholder and Public Input. The Key Project Categories are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water Quality & Resiliency• Connections• Waterfront Access, Amenities & Improvements• Education, Art & Interpretation• Infrastructure <p>Members of the WAC provided feedback based on the established categories. Feedback received from the WAC included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emphasizing Green Infrastructure• Consideration of the dam as critical infrastructure• Emphasis on the importance of public art• The need for boating safety education• Potential to update interpretive signage in Village	



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Next Steps	<p>Sarah Starke (MJ) presented the next steps for the project.</p> <p>The next WAC meeting will be held virtually in July 2022. The meeting will include further discussion of initial project ideas.</p> <p>The Consultant team will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide Stakeholder Group and Public Meeting summaries to the WAC• Keep the online survey available to the public until June 17, to capture input from seasonal residents• Schedule Public Workshop #2• Continue inventory and analysis• Develop a Draft Projects list	

This meeting summary conveys our understanding of the items discussed and agreements reached at this meeting. Please forward any additions, corrections and/or questions to my attention.

Submitted by:
Sarah Starke, MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, PC

cc: Consultant Team, Waterfront Advisory Committee, Village Planning & Zoning Department, Project File



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ATTENDANCE

Name	Affiliation
Jamie Konkoski, Chair	Community Development Director, Village of Saranac Lake, WAC Chair
Ashley Milne	Harrietstown Council member, WAC member
Carolyn Kessner	Climate Smart Taskforce
Emmett Smith	WAC member
Jason Smith	Adirondack Outfitters, WAC member
Jeremy Evans	Franklin County IDA, WAC member
Nina Schoch	Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation, WAC member
Jesse McCaughey	MJ Engineering
Sarah Starke	MJ Engineering