



# Village of Saranac Lake

## Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Update

### MEETING SUMMARY

**Purpose:** Waterfront Advisory Committee (WAC) – Meeting #4  
**Date and Time:** Thursday, July 7, 2022, 5:00 PM  
**Location:** Hybrid – In Person and Virtual (via Zoom)  
**Attendees:** See Attached

Agenda Item	Discussion	Key Decisions & Outcomes
<b>Welcome &amp; Schedule Update</b>	<p>Sarah Starke (MJ) welcomed everyone to the fourth 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 July 2022.</p>	N/A
<b>Public Engagement Update</b>	<p>Sarah Starke (MJ) presented an overview of Waterfront Survey Highlights.</p> <p>The 15-question Waterfront Survey was accessible online, via the Village website, between April 26<sup>th</sup> and June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022. A total of forty-nine (49) responses were received. The Survey was publicized on the Village website; survey cards were also distributed at the Public Workshop held on April 26<sup>th</sup> and available thereafter at the Village offices. Survey cards featured QR codes that linked directly to the online Waterfront Survey.</p> <p>Waterfront Survey topic areas included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Participant Information</li><li>• Village Waterfront Resources</li><li>• Community Visioning</li><li>• Other Thoughts</li></ul>	N/A

This document was prepared with funding provided by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.



# Village of Saranac Lake

## Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Update

Agenda Item	Discussion	Key Decisions & Outcomes
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Public Engagement Update (Cont'd)</b></p>	<p>Selected Highlights of the Waterfront Survey responses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A majority of survey respondents reside/own property in the Village</li> <li>• There were no responses from students or visitors</li> <li>• Among respondents, the most represented age group was 35-44 years old</li> <li>• More than half of respondents were 55+ years old</li> <li>• Almost all respondents indicated that dining was a key attraction in the Village</li> <li>• Other popular attractions/activities included hiking/walking, community events, entertainment, and shopping</li> <li>• Write-in activities included cross-country skiing, pickleball, and visiting the library</li> <li>• More than 80% of respondents had visited Prescott Park/Ice Palace, Riverside Park, Berkeley Green, and the Saranac Riverwalk</li> <li>• Fewer than one-third of respondents had visited Ampersand (now Garwin) Park, Northern Forest Canoe Trail, Ward-Plumadore Park, or the Skate Park</li> <li>• Approximately two-thirds of respondents had used the Rail Trail</li> <li>• For transportation, approximately 45% of respondents indicated that they walk to recreational resources</li> <li>• Approximately 10% of respondents reported biking to Village recreational resources</li> <li>• Almost 60% of respondents indicated that expanding waterfront access is “Very Important” to them</li> <li>• Only 6% of survey participants reported that expanded waterfront access was “Not Important at All” to them</li> <li>• Seventy (70) percent of respondents desired additional hiking/walking trails</li> </ul>	

This document was prepared with funding provided by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.



# Village of Saranac Lake

## Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Update

Agenda Item	Discussion	Key Decisions & Outcomes
<p><b>Public Engagement Update (Cont'd)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Forty-three (43) percent supported additional cycling trails</li><li>• A boat launch for paddlers was supported by 47% of respondents</li><li>• Access, Cleanliness, and Environmental Conservation/Protection were the three most prevalent themes among respondents' concerns/challenges</li><li>• The top three listed opportunities for improving the waterfront were improving swimming/boating infrastructure, enhancing the visual/aesthetic appeal of the waterfront areas, and upgrading the bandshell for live music</li><li>• Asked about their vision for the Saranac Lake waterfront, the majority of survey respondents included accessibility as a central concern</li><li>• Many respondents explicitly mentioned a desire to limit development in waterfront areas</li></ul>	

This document was prepared with funding provided by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.



# Village of Saranac Lake

## Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Update

Agenda Item	Discussion	Key Decisions & Outcomes
<p><b>Public Engagement Update (Cont'd)</b></p>		
<p><b>Revised LWRP Vision &amp; Discussion</b></p>	<p>Jesse McCaughey (MJ) presented a Revised LWRP Vision to the WAC to elicit input.</p> <p>The Revised LWRP Vision incorporated feedback received during WAC Meeting #3 on the original Draft Vision.</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. 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>	

This document was prepared with funding provided by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.



# Village of Saranac Lake

## Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Update

Agenda Item	Discussion	Key Decisions & Outcomes
<p><b>Draft LWRP Vision &amp; Discussion (Cont'd)</b></p>	<p>Feedback received during WAC Meeting #3 had indicated a desire to emphasize the uniqueness of the community as well as the intention to strive for environmental partnership/sustainability.</p> <p>Jesse McCaughey (MJ) presented the text of the Revised LWRP Vision:</p> <p><i>“Waterfront areas will act as the warp in the fabric of Saranac Lake life. Trailways for walking, cycling, paddling, and skiing will weave together the built environment with the water resources that make the Village so uniquely attractive to residents and visitors alike. Stewardship of the waterfront will reflect its status as a local treasure, balancing the goal of expanded access for all with the implementation of environmental practices that ensure the sustainable health of connected ecosystems.”</i></p> <p>WAC members in attendance offered the following feedback on the Revised LWRP Vision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Revised Vision was an improvement upon the Draft Vision</li> <li>• The word “warp” was unclear and inaccessible</li> <li>• Suggestion to replace “warp” with “foundation” or “cornerstone”</li> <li>• Revised Vision is less human-centric than Draft, which was seen as positive</li> <li>• “Stewardship” expressed positive relationship with nature</li> <li>• “Access for all” was an improvement from Draft Vision</li> </ul>	



# Village of Saranac Lake

## Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Update

Agenda Item	Discussion	Key Decisions & Outcomes
<p><b>Discussion of Proposed LWRP Projects</b></p>	<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"> <li>• Water Quality &amp; Resiliency</li> <li>• Connections</li> <li>• Waterfront Access, Amenities &amp; Improvements</li> <li>• Education, Art &amp; Interpretation</li> <li>• Infrastructure</li> </ul> <p>Sarah Starke (MJ) presented the proposed projects in the Water Quality &amp; Resiliency category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Infrastructure Planning &amp; Implementation</li> <li>• Shoreline Protection Program               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Invasive Species Inventory</li> <li>○ Shoreline Inventory/Monitoring</li> <li>○ Landowner Education</li> <li>○ Riparian Buffer &amp; Native Plantings</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Partnerships with State Agencies on Water Quality (DEC, DOT)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ex. Road Salt, Fish Stocking, Boat Wash</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Feedback received from the WAC included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeking clarity about whether green infrastructure opportunities should be general or specific</li> <li>• “Partnerships” should include nonprofits as well as State agencies</li> <li>• Silt in the river/dam is an issue, from road sand</li> </ul>	<p>Follow up with DPW Supervisor for LWRP Section 2</p> <p>Flag projects that are eligible for Climate Smart Communities points</p>

This document was prepared with funding provided by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.



# Village of Saranac Lake

## Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Update

Agenda Item	Discussion	Key Decisions & Outcomes
<p><b>Discussion of Proposed LWRP Projects</b></p>	<p>Sarah Starke (MJ) presented the proposed projects in the Connections category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lake Colby Beach</li> <li>○ Trail, ADA Improvements to Lake Colby Beach (Broadway)</li> <li>● River Street Corridor</li> <li>○ Rail Trail Connection Improvements</li> <li>○ Protected Bike Lanes</li> <li>○ Pedestrian Connections on River Street (crossing to Lake Flower)</li> <li>○ Streetscape Improvements</li> <li>○ Signage/Branding Connecting Rail Trail to Riverwalk/Canoe Carry</li> </ul> <p>Feedback received from the WAC included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There should be a reference to the Bike &amp; Trail Master Plan</li> <li>● Two-way bikeway preferable to “protected bike lanes”</li> <li>● A crosswalk at Baldwin Park (Colony Court) is a “maybe” from DOT</li> <li>● Biggest goal is to reconnect the people with the lake</li> <li>● Can DOT design regulations be reviewed to establish a baseline understanding of what is feasible?</li> <li>● Waterfront Survey should have included a question to capture thwarted desires to walk to the waterfront</li> <li>● Keep Riverwalk on the list of proposed projects</li> </ul> <p>Sarah Starke (MJ) presented the proposed projects in the Waterfront Access, Amenities &amp; Improvements category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Riverside Park Improvements</li> <li>○ Public Restrooms</li> <li>○ Seating Improvements for All Ages</li> </ul>	

This document was prepared with funding provided by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.



# Village of Saranac Lake

## Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Update

Agenda Item	Discussion	Key Decisions & Outcomes
<p><b>Discussion of Proposed LWRP Projects</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prescott &amp; Riverfront Park Improvements               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lake Flower Trails</li> <li>○ Riparian Buffer &amp; Native Plantings</li> <li>○ Improvements to Canoe/Kayak Put-In</li> <li>○ Fishing Access</li> </ul> </li> <li>● William Wallace/Lake Colby Beach               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Beach, Parking Improvements</li> <li>○ Canoe/Kayak Launch, Rack, Rentals</li> <li>○ Accessible Fishing, Launch Access</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Kids Recreation Program               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Free/Low Cost Equipment Rentals</li> <li>○ Voucher Program through ADK Lakes &amp; Trails, seasonal lending permits</li> <li>○ Free/Low Cost Water Safety Courses</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Feedback received from the WAC included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Move kayak rack/rentals to Riverfront Park &amp; Colby</li> <li>● Naming: Park know parks by different names</li> <li>● Delineate canoe put-in if riparian buffer established in Prescott Park</li> <li>● Need “floodplain-friendly” infrastructure at water’s edge</li> <li>● “Access to all” an important goal – ADA compliant solutions</li> <li>● Rubberized mats may make wheelchair access possible in parks</li> <li>● DEC boat launch restrooms are nice but closed in winter</li> <li>● Porta Potties at bandshells should be permanent – incorporate in plan for new bandshell</li> <li>● Public outreach should include engaging with disabled residents and home care aides</li> <li>● Ampersand Park has been renamed Garwin Park</li> <li>● 24/7/365 access to Lake Colby Beach should be stated as a community desire</li> </ul>	





# Village of Saranac Lake

## Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Update

Agenda Item	Discussion	Key Decisions & Outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Question about how other inland LWRP communities have addressed accessibility of water resources to the public (DOH guidelines)</li> <li>• Opportunity for ice fishing on Lake Colby to be accessible to all</li> </ul> <p>Sarah Starke (MJ) presented the proposed projects in the Education, Art &amp; Interpretation category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lake Flower Art &amp; Interpretation               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rotating Interpretation on Lake Flower Trail</li> <li>○ Public Art at Riverfront Park (ex. Projection Art)</li> <li>○ Refresh Riverwalk Murals</li> <li>○ Inventory &amp; Modernize Information Kiosks</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Programming Partnerships for Educating Visitors &amp; Residents               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Free/Low Cost Boater Safety</li> <li>○ Water Quality, Pollution, Invasive Species</li> <li>○ Loon Center, Paul Smiths, ROOST, etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Feedback received from the WAC included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add the library as a partner for the Education component</li> <li>• Opportunity to create a “gear library”</li> <li>• Possibility to emphasize murals besides those on Riverwalk</li> </ul> <p>Sarah Starke (MJ) presented the proposed projects in the Infrastructure category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dam Improvement/Modernization Study               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identify long-term needs, improve controls, modernization, hydraulic gates/turbines, resiliency</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Water Infrastructure Improvements on NY-86               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Coordinate with DOT roadwork</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Wastewater Plant Improvements               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Capture methane (Cogen)</li> <li>○ Solar Panels (on roofs over drying beds)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

This document was prepared with funding provided by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.



# Village of Saranac Lake

## Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Update

Agenda Item	Discussion	Key Decisions & Outcomes
	<p>Feedback received from the WAC included:</p> <p>Should there be a general recommendation for green energy generation?</p> <p>Could a project involve updating zoning regulations?</p>	
	<p>Jaclyn Hakes (MJ) presented a series of options for local implementation of the LWRP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Capital Projects</li> <li>○ Apply for grants</li> <li>○ Local land-use controls</li> <li>○ Updating the LWRP, ongoing process</li> <li>○ Local Consistency Review of local actions</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Local Laws &amp; Regulations               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Local Waterfront Consistency Review Law (Waterfront Assessment Form)</li> <li>○ Zoning Amendments</li> <li>○ New Regulations</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Local Management Structure               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Procedures for Consistency Law and Waterfront Assessment Form</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Feedback received from the WAC included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Waterfront Assessment Form (WAF) is currently one-size-fits-all</li> <li>● Could be tailored by scale/type of project</li> <li>● A flow chart or matrix that leads applicant through relevant points would be desirable</li> <li>● The Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals are combined in one Development Board in Saranac Lake</li> <li>● Considerable overlap between WAF and SEQR – needs streamlining</li> </ul>	

This document was prepared with funding provided by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.



# Village of Saranac Lake

## Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Update

Agenda Item	Discussion	Key Decisions & Outcomes
<b>Next Steps</b>	<p>Sarah Starke (MJ) presented the next steps for the project.</p> <p>The next WAC meeting will be held virtually on September 8, 2022. The meeting will include further discussion of proposed project ideas.</p> <p>The Consultant team will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide Stakeholder Group and Public Meeting summaries to the WAC</li><li>• Schedule Public Workshop #2</li><li>• Continue inventory and analysis</li></ul>	

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



# Village of Saranac Lake

## Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Update

---

### ATTENDANCE

Name	Affiliation
Jamie Konkoski, Chair	Community Development Director, Village of Saranac Lake, WAC Chair
Ashley Milne	Harrietstown Council member, WAC member
Carolyn Koestner	Climate Smart Communities Task Force, WAC member
Emmett Smith	Northern Power & Light, WAC member
Becca Halter	Climate Smart Communities Task Force, WAC member
Jeremy Evans	Franklin County IDA, WAC member
Rick Weber	Village of Saranac Lake Development Board
Jesse McCaughey	MJ Engineering
Sarah Starke	MJ Engineering
Jaclyn Hakes	MJ Engineering
Kate Hogle	NYS Department of State