



**City of Poughkeepsie
Waterfront Advisory Committee
Meeting Agenda**

Virtual Meeting

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9094874731937012493>

Tuesday, December 28, 2021

6:00 PM

I. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

1. APPROVAL OF APRIL 27, 2021 MINUTES
2. APPROVAL OF JUNE 22, 2021 MINUTES
3. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2021 MINUTES

II. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Adoption of 2022 Meeting Schedule
2. Old Business / Updates
 - a. LWRP Update – Public Hearing before the Common Council January 18, 2022
 - b. CaD Design Studio Update
 - c. PK4Keeps: Comprehensive Plan & Zoning Code Update

POUGHKEEPSIE WATERFRONT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City of Poughkeepsie Planning Division
62 Civic Center Plaza, 2nd Floor
Poughkeepsie, NY 12602
(845) 451-4055

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 27, 2021 MEETING

Members Present: Europa McGovern (Chair), Michael Young, Harvey Flad, Jim Nelson, Lia Harris,

Members Absent: Terricena Brown

Also Present: Natalie Quinn, Planning Director

Meeting called to order: 6:04 PM

Director Quinn read the following notice into the record:

Based upon notices and health advisories issued by federal, state and local officials related to the COVID 19 virus and as permitted under Governor Cuomo's Executive Order to 202.60, which suspends certain provisions of the open meetings law to allow municipal boards to convene public meetings and public hearings via video conferencing, that is how we are meeting here tonight via this platform. In accordance with that executive order, the public has been provided with the ability to view tonight's meeting. And a recording and a transcript will be posted on the city's website following this meeting.

I. APPROVAL OF MARCH 23, 2021 MINUTES

A motion was made by Harvey Flad, seconded by Mike Young, and carried unanimously (5:0:0).

II. ACTION FOR PLANNING BOARD

1. 36 PINE STREET: WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS ANTENNA

Application for Site Plan review relative to the proposed installation of a wireless communications antenna on the roof of the building at 36 Pine Street (The Water Club). Owner: JM Development Group, LLC; Applicant: Verizon Wireless; Consultant: Young Sommer, LLC (Scott Olson); Grid #6061-27-797885; Zoned: Research & Development (R&D) District; File #2021-012

Scott Olson (Young & Sommer) and Tim Richmond (Verizon Wireless) were present to represent the application. Mr. Olson provided an overview of the project, including the following information:

- The installation is four antennas concealed with stealth design to incorporate into the existing penthouse
- Photo simulations

Europa McGovern notes that the antennas will only be concealed on three sides (east, south and west) and requests explanation as to why concealment on the 4th side is not necessary. Mr. Olson responds that concealment on the north side was not deemed to be necessary because (a) the antennas will be painted to match the color of the penthouse and (b) because of the location of the penthouse on the roof, the north side of the structure is not easily visible.

Europa also requests clarification that the district does not contain any height restrictions that would preclude the proposed changes. Planning Director Quinn clarifies that the site is within the R&D District and the additional 3 feet is in compliance with that zone.

Europa notes that in relation to Policy 25 of the currently adopted 1998 LWRP, none of the listed scenic views are impacted by this proposal. Mike Young adds that the current LWRP does not protect views from Route 9, which would be the view most impacted by the current proposal.

Mike Young also notes proposed improvements in cellular transmission in the area and discusses whether improvements those may potentially increase coverage on the former DeLaval site, which is being discussed as a site for future public access. Tim Richmond confirms that based on the proposed 2100 MHz coverage map, the DeLaval site will be covered and the two southern facing antennas could be turned to face southwest to more directly be pointed at the DeLaval site.

The Chair thanks the applicant for incorporating stealth design into the proposal and reads a resolution stating that the Waterfront Advisory Committee deliberated and then resolved to make a determination that the proposed 36 Pine Street application for installation of four wireless communication antennas is consistent with the LWRP.

Motion:	Europa McGovern
Second:	Jim Nelson
Carried:	5:0:0

III. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. New Business

- Hudson River Estuary Program CAD Design studio Letter of Support

Europa McGovern provides an update on the Hudson River Estuary Program's Climate Adaptive Design Studio application and the letter of support. The Hudson River Estuary program is an educational arm of the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and they provide resources to the municipalities in the Hudson River watershed. This program involves partnering a host community with a group of landscape design graduate students from Cornell University to conduct a non-site-specific analysis of the waterfront to determine potential climate adaptive design improvements. The City is submitting an application and Europa has circulated a draft letter of support for the WACs consideration.

There is further discussion of questions within the application regarding recently completed LWRPs. The Committee discusses how the City should best incorporate reference to the recently completed City of Poughkeepsie LWRP, which contains a number of improved resiliency measures and is currently before the Common Council for adoption.

Harvey Flad notes that he has worked with Cornell landscape architecture students in the past and is excited by the continued relationship.

Successful applicants should be notified as early as June.

A motion was made in support of including the letter of support, with noted additions, from the WAC for the City's application.

Motion: Lia Harris
Second: Mike Young
Carried: 5:0:0

2. Old Business

- LWRP Update

No updates from the LWRP Working Group members, Lia Harris and Europa McGovern.

Planning Director Quinn provides a summary of a recent meeting between the City Administration and Council representatives. The Council members present had verbal critiques of writing and maps within the November 2019 draft of the LWRP, and claimed that they would provide greater detail as to those critiques and how they could be addressed.

- Southern Waterfront Redevelopment Task Force

Mike Young and Lia Harris are WAC representatives on the SWRTF. The Task Force met for a 3 hour meeting, available online, which included history and background, Q&A, and public comment. Public comment was difficult to summarize but highlighted a desire for a mixture of uses and consistent public access. Task Force is focusing on short-term and long-term actions, and creation of a public survey. Lia discussed some more inconclusive areas being discussed such as zoning, parkland requirement, SEQRA, and an environmental easement. The Task Force was also informed of existing grant monies which may be available now for public space improvements. The Task Force has a 60 day timeline for deliverables for short-term suggestions, and 90 days for long-term suggestions.

Harvey Flad had a comment regarding safety issues along the bulkhead and the drop-off into the river. Mike seconds these concerns and notes that they are being considered by the Task Force and the city's insurance agency, in addition to issue with loose gravel, electrical bolts, trip hazards, etc.

Another concern discussed by the task force is hesitancy to do anything permanent on the short-term that would prevent longer term development. One sub-committee is looking at other communities for case studies and best practices.

Europa asks whether there is still a plan to connect to the tunnel under the railroad tracks near Hudson Pointe and whether or not the task force is discussing opening up just a portion of the site. Mike notes that hazards multiple as you go south on the site, which presents an issue, as does maintenance issues on the other side of the tunnel.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 PM was made by Mike Young, seconded by Harvey Flad, and carried unanimously.

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MINUTES OF THE JUNE 22, 2021 MEETING

Members Present: Europa McGovern (Chair), Jim Nelson, Harvey Flad,

Members Absent: Terricena Brown, Michael Young, Lia Harris

Also Present: Natalie Quinn, Planning Director

Meeting called to order: 6:06 PM

Director Quinn read the following notice into the record:

Based upon notices and health advisories issued by federal, state and local officials related to the COVID 19 virus and as permitted under Governor Cuomo's Executive Order to 202.60, which suspends certain provisions of the open meetings law to allow municipal boards to convene public meetings and public hearings via video conferencing, that is how we are meeting here tonight via this platform. In accordance with that executive order, the public has been provided with the ability to view tonight's meeting. And a recording and a transcript will be posted on the city's website following this meeting.

I. APPROVAL OF APRIL 27, 2021 MINUTES

Approval of minutes was postponed due to a lack of quorum.

III. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1) Old Business / Updates

- **LWRP Update**

No new updates, but Planning Director Quinn directs the public to the recording of the April 27th WAC meeting if they would like to hear the most recent update provided at then.

- **Southern Waterfront Redevelopment Task Force Update**

Mike and Lia are the WAC liaisons on the task force. Draft short term recommendations by the task force are posted on the city's web page. Recordings of task force meeting are also posted. Their next meeting is scheduled for next week.

Chair McGovern recommends that WAC members and members of the public review the short term recommendations to see how they might be incorporated into the draft LWRP, potentially Section 4. Next task will be developing long term recommendations.

- **Hudson River Estuary Program CaD Studio Letter of Support**

At the last meeting the WAC voted in favor of submitting a letter of support for the city's application to the Climate Adaptive Design Studio. The application was successfully submitted, but the city has not yet heard back as to whether or not they were selected for the studio.

Chair McGovern provides the Estuary Program currently has a funding opportunity for communities that have completed this climate adaptive design studios, such as Piermont and City of Kingston. Because they participated in CaD Studio in past years they are eligible for this new funding stream to further develop conceptual designs into final design on publically-owned waterfront spaces to start to move those projects towards implementation.

2) New Business

- **Hudson 7 Resolution regarding release of turbid water to Esopus Creek**

Resolution is in reference to the draft environmental impact statement for the SPDES permit for the Ashokan releases to the lower Esopus Creek from the Ashokan Reservoir. Europa provides update that Hudson 7 submitted comments as a collective group, as did the Ashokan Release Working Group, which is a broader group of community stakeholders, mostly based in Ulster County. The working group hired a consultant to compile their comments and develop recommendations. Comments generally included a request for a supplemental draft environmental impact statement as a next step, and halting of releases until interim solutions are agreed upon.

Harvey Flad shared his experience and testimony that he shared as a consultant for the Town of Saugerties. His consultation and 60 page testimony was in regards to community character and the aesthetic landscape and the visual impact assessment.

Additional concerns discussed were mud flows, economic impacts on the tourism industry, impacts to fish and bird food chains, the estimated \$11,646 price tag associated with cleaning mud and silt out of the Poughkeepsie water treatment facility machinery. There was discussion of turbid releases versus community releases

- **Dutchess County Urban Trail Project**

Planning Director Quinn shared a map of the proposed Urban Trail. The project is being led by Dutchess County and their consultants, but with the involvement of local municipalities and partners. The Dutchess County Urban Trail will be implemented on portions of the CSX rail lines purchased by the County. The trail will be pedestrian and bicycle paths similar to what you see on the walkway. More information can be found on the project website, <https://www.dutchesscountyurbantrail.com/>

There is discussion regarding where the trail ends in the Poughkeepsie waterfront area, at Kittridge Place where the existing CSX ends. Users would then have to use Hoffman Street Bridge and Water Street to get down to the waterfront. The city should consider sidewalk, crosswalk, and bike improvements and signage along these routes to get users safely down to the waterfront.

Planning Director Quinn also plugs the new PKGO architecture video and self-guided walking tour. Check it out at poughkeepsiego.com. I encourage folks who haven't seen it to check out the really cool six minute video, our consultants, Ashworth Creative, did a great job on that. And then also the check out the self-guided tours.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 PM was made by Europa McGovern, and seconded by Harvey Flad.

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MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 28, 2021 MEETING

Members Present: Europa McGovern (Chair), Harvey Flad, Michael Young, Lia Harris

Members Absent: Terriciana Brown, Jim Nelson

Also Present: Natalie Quinn, Planning Director

Meeting called to order: 6:04 PM

Director Quinn read the following notice into the record:

Under Governor Hochul's Executive Order, which suspends certain provisions of the open meetings law to allow municipal boards to convene public meetings and public hearings via video conferencing, which is how we are meeting here tonight via this platform. In accordance with that executive order, the public has been provided with the ability to view tonight's meeting. And a recording and a transcript will be posted on the city's website following this meeting.

I. APPROVAL OF JUNE 22, 2021 MINUTES

Minutes were not prepared in time for review or approval. Approval of minutes will occur at next WAC meeting.

III. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Old Business / Updates

- **LWRP Update**

City staff does not have any updates at this time.

- **Southern Waterfront Redevelopment Task Force Update**

Mike and Lia are the WAC liaisons on the task force. Both short and long term recommendations have been posted and adopted by the task force. The final report has been posted to the city's website and submitted to the Common Council. At this point the southern waterfront task force has disbanded. The short-term recommendations focused primarily on access to the site in the interim, with non-permanent treatments. The longer-term proposals focused more on proposals from Scenic Hudson and survey findings. The survey findings aligned closely with findings of the draft LWRP.

To access the SWRTF reports go to www.cityofpoughkeepsie.com, select “government”, select “common council,” then select “southern waterfront redevelopment task force.”

There was discussion about the types of uses the public would like to see on the waterfront and the underutilization of other waterfront parks. Harvey provided an update on the Kaal Rock Concert Series.

There was discussion of next steps, including formal adoption of the recommendations by the Common Council, addition of the recommendations as an appendix to the LWRP, and the fact that the safety railing and liability is likely the biggest hurdle delaying action on the short term recommendations.

- **Hudson River Estuary Program CAD Design Update**

The City was awarded the honor of hosting the climate adaptive design studio this fall. The project is a partnership between the Hudson River Estuary Program, a non-enforcement arm of DEC, as well as Cornell University and one of their landscape design graduate programs. The goal is for the students to design a number of climate-adaptive design solutions for the waterfront, with the guidance of DEC and local stakeholders.

In early September, Planning Director Quinn and Mayor Rolison gave an overview presentation to the students, orienting them to planning and development on the waterfront. On September 10th the students and DEC visited Poughkeepsie for an in-person tour and stakeholder workshop. Attendees included members of the SWRTF, residents of Hudson Point and One Dutchess, representatives from environmental programs at Marist and Vassar, Mid-Hudson’s Children’s Museum, Dutchess County Planning, and Scenic Hudson. There will be another workshop on October 20th to review preliminary designs. November 5th will be another round of design critiques, with the final project aiming to wrap-up before the end of the year. The presentation of final designs is slated for December 13th, 2021.

There is a second round of funding offered by DEC only to communities that participated in the first round of CaD studio. Funding from that second grant can be used to refine some of the priority recommendations and designs.

- **Community Resiliency Rebuilding Workshop Update**

The Community Resiliency Building workshop is co-hosted by the Cornell Co-operative Extension and the Nature Conservancy. This opportunity arose out of the city’s participation in the Hudson 7. In many ways this effort is complimentary to the CaD studio. The effort will review planning and design documents, and then conduct a community mapping process to identify locations within the city, especially along the waterfront and Fall Kill, which are subjected to repeated flooding and other climate hazards. The final product is a report, which is an action within the Climate Smart Communities program.

The workshop will include representatives from both Hyde Park and Poughkeepsie, and will be hosted on October 13th.

Planning Director Quinn provided information on two upcoming city events:

- Housing Needs Assessment Meeting – Thursday 9/30 from 5-7PM at Family Partnership Center
- Kaal Rock Concert series on October 9th, from 4:30 to 7 pm

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 PM was made by Mike Young, and seconded by Harvey Flad.