



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

Common Council Chambers
Tuesday, September 27, 2022
6:00 PM

I. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

1. APPROVAL OF APRIL 26, 2022 MINUTES

Motion: _____

Second: _____

Carried: _____

2. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 23, 2022 MINUTES

Motion: _____

Second: _____

Carried: _____

II. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. LWRP Update

2. Discussion of WAC review of items before Planning Board

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 26, 2022 MEETING

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

Members Absent: Terricena Brown, Jim Nelson

Also Present: Natalie Quinn, Development Director

Meeting called to order: 6:04 PM

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Lia Harris and seconded by Harvey Flad to receive in print and adopt the meeting minutes for the meetings held on January 25, 2022 and March 26, 2022.

II. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Old Business / Updates

i. LWRP Update

Director Natalie Quinn reports that Common Council and staff continue to work with Emily Svenson, who was hired by the Council to make final edits to the document. Recommended changes are currently being discussed by both parties.

Chair McGovern requests that the WAC be provided with a timeline for updates once one is available so that the Commission can track the process. They look forward to being able to use the updates LWRP for consistency reviews as soon as possible.

Once changes have been agreed upon and document is moving towards approval, it was decided that the WAC should focus on any revisions they would like to make to the consistency review process and logistics. For example, should the applicant or staff complete the consistency review form? It was suggested that the committee combine that consistency review document in the LWRP appendix with the old form that reviews the LWRP policy by policy. Language should also be added to the form that directs applicants where to search for specific information within the document.

There was also discuss of an “end of year report” that should be submitted to the Common Council and presented during the Common Council agenda section set aside for “reports from boards and committees.”

Committee deviated from order of posted agenda since Director Quinn needed to leave meeting early

ii. Hudson River Estuary Program CAD Design Update

The PDF versions of the student designs have been circulated to the committee and posted along with this meeting agenda. CAD program staff are still working on compiling a final report that provides more narrative to walk you through the design concepts. The City will not need to identify one design to move to the second phase of funding, but should identify concepts that resonate and should be explored further.

2. New Business

Lia Harris brings up the Hudson River Estuary Grant program that is currently accepting applications. The City does not have a designated grant writer, but if the Committee were to review the three grant areas and propose relevant projects, those could be presented to the City Administration for consideration. The grant opportunity focuses on access to the river. One project idea mentioned was updating the boat launch at Kaal Rock Park. Lia and Europa offered to review the grant opportunity and report back at the next WAC meeting. Applications are due June 1st.

Director Quinn makes a note that on the city’s website there is currently a job posting for the position of Planning Director that the City is looking to fill.

1. Old Business / Updates

iii. Southern Waterfront Task Force Update

The Task Force had a goal of creating short term and long term recommendations, which they did. Identified priorities included siting of water dependent uses, access to the public, creation of places to assemble, etc. All reports and materials are posted online on the city’s website. It was stated that the survey results collected by the task force were similar to the survey that was run by BFJ as part of the LWRP update.

Regarding immediate recommendations, the task force identified actions such as removing debris, providing access for parking, adding an access point to the parking lot that is currently the southern lower parking lot that's at the moment only accessible from Grandview, remove the existing chain link fence which blocks the site and move it further south on the property to allow access to the north end of the property that has fewer logistical obstacles. The focus of the short term recommendations was to make the space open for a walkway along the shoreline.

A challenge for the site and short term recommendations is that a bulkhead runs the length of the shoreline on this site, which sits several feet above the main waterline. There was significant discussion regarding a proposed fence or railing, hazards and insurance concerns relating to this factor, budgeting for the improvements, and release of an RFP to seek a contractor to complete the work.

It was further discussed that the long-term recommendations focused on encouraging public access, creation of public space and recreational assets, fostering economic benefits, and collaborating with partners to program the site

Minimal action has been taken to implement any of the recommendations at this point. Debris has been cleared from the site and some paving was done off of Rinaldi Drive.

There was further discussion of the desired recreational amenities identified through the Task Force survey as well as access through the tunnel under the rail line. There was discussion of a need to look at the full shoreline when considering the siting of recreational amenities. Some parks and shoreline are better suited for specific interventions.

There was further discussion of what plantings and soft shorelines might be possible and feasible on the site due to the existing bulkhead and cap over contaminated soils.

A motion was made by Michael Young and seconded by Lia Harris to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 PM.

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MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 23, 2022 MEETING

Members Present: Europa McGovern (Chair), Lia Harris, Jim Nelson

Members Absent: Harvey Flad, Mike Young, Terricena Brown

Also Present: Paul Hesse, Community Development Coordinator

Meeting called to order: 6:03 PM

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Due to a lack of quorum, adoption of the April 26 meeting minutes was postponed until the next meeting.

II. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Old Business / Updates

- i. LWRP Update – Discussion of revised comments from DOS
- ii. Proposed timeline for Common Council adoption

The City received revised comments from DOS and the new project manager, Josh Hahn, last week. Staff request that DOS review the latest draft that the city had prepared, which included a number of comments and changes proposed by the Common Council. It has roughly three years since DOS reviewed a previous version in Summer 2019. There were quite a number of changes or comments, questions that that DOS sent back to the city. Staff and the Council's consultant, Emily Svenson are still reviewing those comments. Since the summer 2019, DOS has adopted a new template to make LWRPs more uniform and that template is being applied to the most recent draft of the Poughkeepsie LWRP. Many of the comments have to do with bringing the document into compliance with that new template. Specifically, DOS now strongly discourages municipalities from creating subpolicies that are "too similar" to the overarching state policy.

Staff plans to make the necessary changes over the next several weeks and recirculate a revised draft to the Common Council. Staff will also include a one-page summary document outlining changes made.

Europa briefly discusses why the document was delayed in 2019, improvements and benefits to the city included in the new draft, and her optimism that adoption of the document seems to be somewhat in sight. Europa encourages fellow WAC members to review the comments on the latest draft prior to the September WAC meeting.

There was further discussion of the Waterfront Assessment Form. The proposed form at the back of the LWRP aligns closely with the State's Coastal Assessment Form, but doesn't specifically align with the 44 policies within the Poughkeepsie LWRP. The form looks similar to questions already answered in the applicant's EAF. Europa would prefer the WAF to direct applicants to review the 44 policies.

There was further discussion of a new adoption timeline and responses to DOS comments being posted online so the public and Common Council are aware of the process going forward.

Clarification was provided that the July 2022 draft that was circulated to DOS is available on the city's website for public review. Staff will also post the summary of changes that were made by the Common Council.

2. New Business

i. Discussion of WAC member terms and vacancies

Staff reports that there is still a vacant seat on the Board, and everybody's terms are expired with the exception of Jim Nelson. Jim's term expires January 21st, 2023. Staff asks all Board members to reach out to Natalie Quinn to let her know if you are interested in continuing to serve. Europa will email all members to discuss attendance and interest in remaining on the Committee.

A motion was made by Europa McGovern and seconded by Jim Nelson to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 PM.