

# Village of Williamsville Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Waterfront Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

**Date of Meeting:** December 12, 2019

**Meeting Time:** 6:00 PM

**Meeting Location:** Williamsville Village Hall

**Attendees:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Nick Roth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sheryl Davies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Maggie Winship	<input type="checkbox"/>	Judy Kindron
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ben Vilonen	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tim Boyle
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Peter Warn	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Keaton DePriest	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Deborah Rogers	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jane Vohwinkel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wendy Salvati, WWS Planning
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Marisa Riggi	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeanne Beiter, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Noel Bartlo	<input type="checkbox"/>	Emma Phillips, C&S

Public Meeting Follow Up

As most of the committee members who were present were not at the last meeting, Wendy Salvati briefly reviewed the summary of the comments that were gathered at the six breakout table discussions from the Public Information Meeting that was held on October 24<sup>th</sup>. The following was noted and discussed:

Question #2 – What should the overall goal for the future of the waterfront area be?

- Wendy said that there were several requests for using the dam at Island Park for public access. Maggie noted that the Village and Town will be collaborating on a grant application to undertake a hydraulic analysis of Ellicott Creek. Wendy said that the consensus at the last committee meeting was that the dam should include proper railings or similar preventative measures would allow for scenic viewing, as well as access to the Ed Youngs plaza. The property owner and Ed Young’s representatives must be supportive of such access, and it must be designed properly in the vicinity of the store. The parking lot in the plaza is perilous, so pedestrian and bicycle safety must be assured. It was noted that the owners of Ed Youngs also own a vacant lot that extend to Oakgrove Drive, which could be used as a part of the designed site access plan.
- The use of the dam for energy generation was also discussed. Wendy noted that at the last committee meeting, members talked about doing a small demonstration project and that maybe the energy

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generated could be used to light the falls at night. It was noted that energy generation at the dam could be done without the need to divert too much water away from the falls by using micro-hydro technology. Maggie said that the Town of Amherst is considering the installation of micro technology at various places along Ellicott Creek. Such an installation at Island Park could generate energy for the pavilion. This will be discussed further in Section IV of the LWRP (proposed projects).

- At the last meeting Nick Roth also mentioned the Dyson agreement, which guaranteed riparian rights to the creek for property owners west of Island Park. Wendy said that after the last meeting, Peter Warn provided contact information for the Williamsville Historical Society to learn more about this. Keaton DePriest said that he knows there is a copy of this agreement in Village Hall and will get a copy to Wendy so that she can make sure it is properly discussed in the inventory. Maggie said that she was planning on speaking with Basil Piazza, as he has been around for a long time and likely is a good source of historical knowledge. Keaton also said that he would provide Wendy with a copy of the map and resolution for the only conservation easement that exists along Ellicott Creek.
- Wendy also shared a map she received from the DOS that showed the location of another dam near Lehn Springs. While no one was sure about this dam, Peter Warn confirmed that there was once a dam somewhere in the vicinity of the border between Glen Park and Amherst State Park; remnants of it still exist in the area. Wendy noted that historically, when the area north of the falls was being used for mills, the location of the Ellicott Creek corridor was very different than it is today. There were small dams in the area that were used in association with milling operations. Nick Roth also provided Wendy with some historical information about Lang's Brewery (that operated in the late 1800's).

Question #3 – Any additional natural or historic resources that need protection or enhancement?

- The low water flow in the Lehn Springs area was another issue that was discussed again. Peter Warn said that the islands area has historically received water flow from springs located on the east side of Garrison Road, near the intersection with Wehrle. He said that when the roadway improvements were constructed it impacted the flow and this has led to the existing problems. He said that the remedy is to restore the water flow; without such restoration, this problem cannot be addressed. This could be included as a part of the hydraulic study for Ellicott Creek that Maggie mentioned. Again, this is an issue that should be discussed at a joint meeting with the Town of Amherst LWRP committee.

Question #5 – Are there any public access concerns? Potential for connections?

- Wendy asked about the ability to take dogs into Glen Park, as dogs are allowed in Island Park (although the Glen Park prohibition is ignored/not well enforced). It was noted that the joint ownership of Glen Park may be the reason for the prohibition. Proper "pooper scooper" signage would be needed.

Question #6 – Are there any environmental concerns that need to be addressed?

- Wendy asked about the pond in the upper (southwest) corner of Glen Park, where the liner was failing, and silt was accumulating. Ben Vilonen said that that area had been improved; the liner was removed, and water is flowing through the swale that leads to the other small ponds (which means that the culvert connection must have been repaired). He said the pond is holding water and flow through the

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area was improved. Wendy asked about the other ponds, which were noted as a concern by the public due to algae and siltation. It was stated that the ponds need to be cleaned and deepened, and liners should be used where necessary to maintain flow and water levels. The question was stated, “should this be done for beautification (manicured or natural), maintenance or both”? Sheryl Davies also noted that the use of proper vegetation in the pond is required to improve their ecological health.

- The issue of septic systems was raised. It was suggested that the Erie County Department of Health and/or the Town engineering department be contacted to determine what properties in the WRA utilize septic systems. Wendy said that to her knowledge it was primarily the properties located on the south side of Ellicott Creek in Subarea 2, which is an isolated area where it is difficult to extend public sewer service. Wendy will follow up on this.

### Introductory Policy discussion

Wendy had previously provided the Committee with a copy of the DOS version of the 44 inland policies to be used for the Williamsville LWRP. Since the last meeting, Wendy revised this document to reflect where she felt new or revised information should be included, or where information could be deleted. As Wendy brought the file on a thumb drive, Keaton projected it so that she could go through it with the group. Policies 1 through 18 were reviewed, and comments/adjustments were made to a few policies. Comments previously provided by Jane Vohwinkel were also discussed. Wendy will make these changes to the file and send it to the Committee prior to the next committee meeting for review and continued discussion.

### Next Steps/Action Items

Waterfront Advisory Committee members are reminded to **record their time** for meeting participation.

- Prepare and distribute the WAC committee meeting summary.
- Wendy will provide a copy of the revised policies and review various information provided by others.
- Keaton DePriest to provide Wendy with a copy of the Dyson agreement and documentation for the conservation easement.
- Maggie Winship to speak with Basil Piazza and report back to the Committee.
- Revise the draft Section II Inventory and Analysis to reflect final comments and discussion offered at the Public Information Meeting. Revised Section II and supporting maps will be placed in the project Drop Box for Committee review and access.
- Committee members to review Policy document in preparation for discussion at December WAC meeting.

The next WAC meeting will be held on January 22, 2020, at 6:00 at Village Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Wendy Weber Salvati*