

## *MEETING NOTES*

**DATE:** September 27, 2019 at 3PM

**SUBJECT:** Rondout Riverport Shoreline Stabilization and Public Access – Phase 2  
PAC (Project Advisory Committee) – Meeting 4

**LOCATION:** Skype Meeting

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### **ATTENDEES:**

Kristin Haber – Ponckhockie Resident  
Brenna Robinson – City of Kingston  
Kevin McEvoy – Kingston Land Trust  
Rob Iannucci – HKWR  
Dan Proctor – HKWR  
Lisa Vasilakos – NYSDOS  
Julie Noble – City Sustainability + CAC  
Jeff Anzevino – Scenic Hudson  
Kristen Wilson – City of Kingston  
Kyla DeDea – City of Kingston Planning  
Steve Roy – Weston & Sampson  
Rachelle McKnight – Weston & Sampson

### **ITEMS OF DISCUSSION**

1. Kristen Wilson provided a brief overview of where we're at in the project. Rachelle reviewed the agenda for the meeting and took roll call on who was in attendance (above).
2. Weston & Sampson gave a power point presentation (attached) to the PAC that included a quick summary of the previous meeting and the current schematic design efforts to date, and the feedback received during the pre-application meeting with the DEC/ACOE/DOS/OGS on August 13, 2019. This work generally included:
  - a. Comments received from the DEC/ACOE/DOS/OGS about shoreline stabilization measures and permits necessary for improvements proposed for the project.
  - b. Revised concept diagrams for each of the four sub project areas reflecting the elimination of proposed improvements which received negative feedback during the DEC/ACOE/DOS/OGS pre-application meeting.

3. Members of the Historic Kingston Waterfront Revival (HKWR) expressed concern that the revised concepts do not reflect the priorities and plans of the Local Waterfront Development Implementation Plan (LWDIP). HKWR also expressed frustration at a perceived lack of inclusion in the design process, and deviation from the plans developed by the HKWR.
  - a. Kristen Wilson clarified that the HKWR has been included in all design development meetings between Weston & Sampson and the City of Kingston to date.
  - b. Weston & Sampson requested a markup of the PowerPoint presentation and design plans from HKWR to be sent to the project team to gain a greater understanding of the concerns about conflicts between the two designs.
  - c. HKWR assured the PAC that they are confident a common approach can be reached and requested an in-person design development meeting between the City, Weston & Sampson, and HKWR.
  
4. The Roundout Waterfront consists of the shoreline from the WWTF outfall east of the Cornell Building to the west side of the dead-end of North Street and adjacent to the Central Hudson Gas site. Proposed shoreline stabilization measures include steel sheet pile wall with floating ecosystem, steel sheet pile wall with boat access, pedestrian plaza/ tiered access to water as a transition from bulkhead to 'soft' shoreline, and vegetated berm/park/flood storage ('soft' shoreline) for protection and conveyance of stormwater during flooding events. Discussion:
  - a. HKWR requested a list of DEC/ACOE/DOS/OGS participants and a copy of the meeting minutes.
    1. Kristen Wilson will distribute a copy of the notes/participants provided by Weston & Sampson to the appropriate parties.
  - b. HKWR expressed concern about the interruption of a continuous promenade along the Rondout Riverport in the park areas shown in the concept plans.
    1. Weston & Sampson emphasized the preference for living shoreline stabilization measures from an ecological/flood buffer/permitting perspective.
    2. Weston & Sampson explained the resistance to a cantilevered walkway is due to shading of the water and aquatic ecosystems below.
  - c. HKWR informed the PAC that the original design of the proposed waterfront promenade might also include extending the land leeward to provide enough room to construct this public amenity.
    1. Weston & Sampson emphasized the importance of maintaining clearance in the Federal Navigation Channel in the Rondout Riverport.
    2. Weston & Sampson explained the MHW/Spring High Tide jurisdictional boundaries of the DEC/ACOE along the Rondout Riverport.
    3. Weston & Sampson recounted the recommendation by the DEC/ACOE to construct new bulkheads landward of the existing bulkhead.
  - d. Scenic Hudson pointed out the provisions for park space differ between the schematic overall concept plan and another plan in the presentation.
    1. Weston & Sampson will resolve this conflict before releasing the plans to the public.

- e. HKWR expressed concern about the elimination of some of the public access corridors from East Strand Street.
  1. Weston & Sampson will conduct review of design development to date to determine why a decision was reached to modify these access points.
  
5. The Breakwater to Rondout II Lighthouse includes the existing  $\pm 30$ -foot-wide riprap and timber cribbing (channel protection measure) from the east side of the dead-end of North Street (east of the Central Hudson Gas site) out to the Rondout II Lighthouse. Proposed shoreline stabilization measures include combination of an elevated boardwalk with conduit for water/sewer and intermittent shade structures to the lighthouse, vegetation in riprap, and restored wetland. Alternatives to the elevated boardwalk (floodable concrete boardwalk on the breakwater, or a floating boardwalk along the north side of the breakwater) have been eliminated due to permitting obstacles. Discussion:
  - a. Weston & Sampson recounted specific instructions from the DEC to seek to maintain existing conditions, particularly in sensitive aquatic and wetland habitats.
  - b. Special permits/restricted work windows will be necessary to accommodate breeding/foraging of threatened, rare, and endangered species.
  - c. A request was made to identify threatened, rare, and endangered species identified by the DEC during the DEC/ACOE/DOS/OGS meeting.
    1. Weston & Sampson will supply this information.
  
6. The Trolley Trail Causeway is the area along the existing trolley line starting at 224 East Strand Street to the trail's terminus at Delaware Ave. Proposed shoreline stabilization measures include vegetated riprap and MSE (Mechanically Stabilized Earth). Discussion:
  - a. HKWR stated an indifference to projects outside of the lands held by their organization.
  - b. Weston & Sampson explained the importance of the wetlands in this project area, which are listed as Class 1 (unusual abundance/diversity).
  - c. Special permits/restricted work windows will be necessary to accommodate breeding/foraging of threatened, rare, and endangered species.
  - d. Due to the shift of jurisdictional boundaries as a result of natural forces, a reduction of width of the pedestrian path may be necessary.
  
7. The East Strand Street & North Street includes a portion of East Strand Street from the WWTF to the intersection with North Street, and North Street from the dead-end at Rondout Creek to its intersection with Delaware Avenue. The main objective is climate resiliency to set the stage for future development along the Rondout Waterfront by raising and reconstructing a portion of East Strand Street and North Street. Additional enhancements include integrating porous pavement where appropriate, introducing rain gardens and bioretention areas to control stormwater runoff, and sidewalk and pathway improvements for better connectivity to and from the waterfront. Discussion:

- a. HKWR raised objections to the proposed section of the roadway/sidewalk/green infrastructure improvements along East Strand, citing an incongruency between the proposed design and original design documents provided by HKWR.
  - b. Kristen Wilson reviewed the documents provided by the HKWR during the meeting and pointed out the similarities between the two designs. A request for clarification of the objection was made to HKWR stakeholders.
  - c. Weston & Sampson explained the location of the proposed sections and graphic illustrations in the PowerPoint may not line up with areas slated for intensive commercial development and therefore may not reflect the intentions of the HKWR. Additionally, design of structures on private property is outside of the scope of this project.
8. Kristen Wilson introduced the Weaving the Waterfront Public Engagement event, scheduled for October 26<sup>th</sup>. Kristen gave an overview of the purpose and background of the event and explained how the event will be organized. Several members of the PAC volunteered to participate.
- a. HKWR requested a meeting be scheduled to create a unified design approach for the Rondout Riverport to be released to the public. This request will be considered, and details settled in the coming week.
  - b. Weston & Sampson made clear the necessity to present a set of concepts to the public that can be permitted to avoid unrealistic expectations, expense, and delays in the design process.
9. Next PAC Meeting to be scheduled November 8<sup>th</sup>, to provide time to process data received from the Weaving the Waterfront event. Location and specific time to be determined.