

02/23/24 2nd City of Elmira Waterfront Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date/Time	Friday, February 23, 2023, 2:00 PM		
Location	Steele Memorial Library, 101 East Church Street, Elmira, New York		
Attendees	Eric Barton	(EBarton)	River Rescue Task Force / Deputy Chief, Elmira Fire Department
	Dan Mandell	(DMandell)	Mayor, City of Elmira
	Andy Avery	(AAvery)	Commissioner of Public Works, Chemung County Department of Public Works
	Bruce Whitmarsh	(BWhitmarsh)	Director, Chemung Valley History Museum
	Emma Miran	(EMiran)	Director of Community Development, City of Elmira
	Janet Thigpen	(JThigpen)	Flood Mitigation Specialist, Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board (STC)
	Chris Coletta*	(CColetta)	Vice President and Commercial Loan Office II, Chemung Canal Trust Company
	Joshua Hunn*	(JHunn)	New York State Department of State (DOS) – DOS Representative for Elmira LWRP
	Olivia Troiano*		New York State Department of State (DOS) – DOS Representative for Elmira LWRP
	Kevin Meindl	(KMeindl)	Commissioner of Planning, Chemung County Planning Department
	Alison Herman	(AHerman)	Associate Planner, Chemung County Planning Department
	Jim Deiderich		Chemung County Soil and Water District
	Liv Lovejoy		STC

** attended virtually*

Introduction and Project Overview

- Introductions were made in light of new WAC members

Site Conditions / Local Waterfront Revitalization Area

- The revised Waterfront Revitalization Area was reviewed, recent revisions according to DOS and WAC feedback was described for JD. BW motions to approve the final boundary, EM seconds.

Data Collection

- AH gives a brief statement that Fisher is currently finishing up the Inventory and Analysis for presentation at the next WAC meeting, likely in late March
- Expected deliverables and project schedule was mentioned and not discussed in depth

Community Outreach Plan

- It is pointed out by AA that Linda Schornstheimer is retired and Marie Little at mlittle@cityofelmira.net should be cc'd instead. Internet connectivity cut out at this point. Organizations for potential partnerships that were emailed prior to the meeting included: River District Merchants Association and ECTC.

Funding for this Program is provided by the New York State Department of State (NYS DOS) under the Environmental Protection Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Grant Program.

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- Discussion of additional potential community members and organizations to involve in the project included: BACPAC, STEG, Environmental Management Council, Annette Ward, Don Hall at Riverfriends and Audobon, Mike Krusen from Capriotti, Cody Ferris.
 - Venues are discussed, Steele Memorial Library is agreed as being a good location. Clemens Center as underused. BW offers the Historical Society building.
 - Possible events to attend include Cinco de Mayo, Street Painting Fest, Mural Fest, Elmira Pride, Juneteenth
 - Webex connectivity is restored. DM mentions that the City will soon put out newsletter biweekly as a possible LWRP source to update the public. KM asks if Historical Society would be willing to do the same, to BW's agreement. DM says WETM interviewed him about the river, and that allowed him to speak about the LWRP and get the public aware. JT says all involved to post on their respective social media sites as events and updates occur. KM says the planning department has been making attempts to improve social media updates, JT says STC has good staff for theirs.
 - JT brings up a prior engagement event in Park Church about potential plans for the waterfront 5-20 years ago that she attended. EM thinks that is possibly the Waterfront Access Plan 20 years ago, which she provided to AH for forwarding to Fisher.
 - Clemens Center was noted as being free and useful by AA. LL brings up Pride in Wisner, DM agrees and adds Juneteenth.

Next Steps

- KM notes that the first public meeting will be in April, asks if there will be another WAC prior, AH says one more.
- Next meeting to review inventory documents to be determined pending the completion of inventory and analysis. Fridays were mentioned by DM as generally working well.