

# Public Input Sought for Waterfront Redevelopment Strategy

*County to provide planning assistance as part of new, collaborative City-County partnership*

**Poughkeepsie.** . . . City of Poughkeepsie Mayor John Tkazyik and Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro have announced the first of several Public Workshops to learn about the *Waterfront Redevelopment Strategy and Rezoning Project* in the City of Poughkeepsie. The first workshop will be held Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Cunneen-Hackett Theater located at 12 Vassar Street in the City of Poughkeepsie. The public will have the opportunity to hear what is happening near the river, including 2013 plans for an elevator connection between the waterfront and the Walkway Over the Hudson, a new Upper Landing Park along the Fall Kill Creek, a proposed Gateway zoning district around the Parker Avenue entrance to the Walkway, and ongoing plans to improve Kaal Rock Point and Park. The public will be invited to contribute their ideas for the future of the City's waterfront, with the workshop featuring smaller group discussion sessions to ensure all ideas are heard.

The Waterfront Redevelopment Strategy is the first project where Dutchess County is taking the planning management lead for a City of Poughkeepsie project. As part of ongoing collaborative efforts between the City and the County, Dutchess County is now providing ongoing planning management assistance for several significant projects that are underway or proposed for the City of Poughkeepsie.

Dutchess County Executive Molinaro said, "This project, made possible by funding from the Dyson Foundation, is an unprecedented partnership of numerous stakeholders led by Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development, who are committed to a cohesive, collaborative approach to transform the Poughkeepsie waterfront area. This is a transit oriented development project that has the potential to foster a transformational effect on our County economy."

The Waterfront Redevelopment Strategy and Rezoning project area is primarily centered on the waterfront district between the bridges and around the Railroad Station, but will also feature connections to the new Walkway elevator, north and south along the river into the Town, to the Mt.

Carmel neighborhood, and up lower Main Street. The final Redevelopment Strategy will include plans for major park improvements, green infrastructure initiatives, an economic feasibility and financing analysis, phasing steps, and draft waterfront rezoning to fully position the area for subsequent implementation.

The strategy development is being privately funded by the Dyson Foundation. A consultant team is working to review all previous waterfront plans and proposed projects, update site information, and develop new design alternatives. Recommendations will build on previous work, fill in gaps, resolve any conflicts, and create an integrated strategy for the entire Poughkeepsie waterfront.

City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Tkazyik said, "I am pleased to be partnering with the County to make one of our greatest assets, our waterfront, into an even better place for people to visit and do business. Our waterfront is vital to the City's success and we encourage the public to come and voice their opinions on possible strategies for future development."

New York State also recently announced a matching grant through the Department of State to complete a detailed environmental review process and update the City's draft Local Waterfront Revitalization Program as phase 2 of the project.

The Steering Committee overseeing the Waterfront Redevelopment Strategy and Rezoning Project includes the Mayor, Common Council Chair, and representatives from the Common Council, Dutchess County Planning and Development, Dyson Foundation, Metro-North Railroad, Scenic Hudson, and Walkway Over the Hudson.

To learn more about the Waterfront Redevelopment Strategy and Rezoning Project, contact the Dutchess County Department of Planning & Development at 486-3600.

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