Village of Sylvan Beach

LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

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INTRODUCTION

Introduction

New York State approaches the management of waterfront areas in a manner significantly different than the approach taken by other states. The State's overall Local Waterfront Revitalization Program is administered by the New York State Department of State pursuant to the Waterfront Revitalization of Coastal Areas and Inland Waterways Act. While state governments can promote development and provide protection for critical resources, New York State recognizes that individual local towns and villages are in the best position to determine their own waterfront objectives and to adapt statewide approaches to specific local needs. Therefore, New York State's program was created to promote development and provide protection for critical resources in accordance with statewide approaches, but as adapted to fit local needs and objectives.

In New York, a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program is a voluntary effort that brings together state and local governments and the private sector to create a strategy for achieving desired waterfront development. The Local Waterfront Revitalization Program is a comprehensive program that refines legislatively established waterfront policies by incorporating local circumstances and objectives. Such a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program is a detailed realistic effort to promote and protect local waterfront resources.

In preparing this Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, the Village of Sylvan Beach has evaluated its waterfront resources and has developed and implemented a management program for the best use of these community resources.

One component of such a program is the identification of long-term uses along the waterfront and of specific projects. These uses and projects, in conjunction with an established management program, can significantly increase the Village of Sylvan Beach's ability to attract and retain development activities that will take the best advantage of the unique cultural and natural characteristics of the Village's waterfront. The Local Waterfront Revitalization Program also serves to enhance the conservation and protection of valuable environmental resources. The Local Waterfront Revitalization Program is a method for the Village of Sylvan Beach to achieve balance between economic development and environmental protection in order to permit the beneficial use of its waterfront resources while preventing the loss of valuable resources and of public access opportunities to the waterfront.

Once the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program is completed and approved by the New York State Secretary of State, the Village of Sylvan Beach will have in place the local controls to guide waterfront development and – a distinct benefit of a LWRP – the legal ability to ensure that all State actions proposed for its waterfront occur only in the manner prescribed in the LWRP. This "consistency" provision is a strong tool that assures that State and Village government will work in unison, and not at cross purposes, to build a stronger economy, a healthier waterfront environment, and an enhanced community atmosphere.

Since a harbor management plan is now a required element of a LWRP, the Village of Sylvan Beach has chosen to include its harbor management policies as an integral part of the LWRP. Section II discusses the waterfront and harbor facilities of the Village of Sylvan Beach and the

many harbor-related uses and issues affecting them; Section III identifies policies for harbor management; Section IV includes projects aimed at improving local harbor management; and Section V includes local actions to implement harbor management policies and programs.

The Village of Sylvan Beach is unusual among communities not located in the officially designated coastal areas of New York State in that the predominant aspects of its economy, culture, and environment are oriented towards its waterfront. The Village's Comprehensive Plan, drafted largely in 1998 and adopted in 2001, recognizes the Village's dependence on its waterfront location. This particular dependence makes the adoption of a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program of particular importance to the Village. The Village's water-based orientation should be kept in mind in considering the elements of this Local Waterfront Revitalization Program.