



VILLAGE OF DOBBS FERRY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

MEETING DATE: January 9, 2024

AGENDA ITEM SECTION: Presentations

AGENDA ITEM NO. : 2

AGENDA ITEM:

Resiliency Advisory Group – Update from Pace University

ITEM BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

1. Memorandum dated January 3, 2024 from Valerie Monastra, AICP to Mayor Rossillo and the Board of Trustees
2. Resiliency Planning Project presentation



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Rossillo and Members of the Village Board of Trustees

FROM: Valerie Monastra, AICP

Re: Mid-Hudson Regional Community Resilience Planning

DATE: January 3, 2024

CC: Robert Yamuder, Village Administrator
Lori Lee Dickson Esq., Village Attorney

The Village of Dobbs Ferry, in collaboration with four other municipalities and Pace University Land Use Law Center ("the Center"), received a grant from the Department of State in 2020 for Pace University Land Use Law Center to facilitate a community planning process to develop a resiliency assessment and prepare local waterfront revitalization program resiliency components.

The purpose of the grant was to undertake an evaluation of the communities' existing Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) efforts, local plans, and resiliency issues and barriers. The Center worked with the Resiliency Advisory Committee to conduct resiliency assessments, identify and prioritize strategies for waterfront revitalization and coastal resilience, and develop resiliency recommendations that could help implement these strategies. This work will help Dobbs Ferry identify weaknesses and strengths related to resiliency in its current Vision Plan and LWRP.

Pace University is nearing the end of this work, and a draft report is currently being prepared. Through this process, it became clear that the Village has many land use boards and volunteer committees, all working on various aspects of local government, land use, and environmental sustainability. In addition, many of these boards and committees are operating in silos and are unaware of work being undertaken by other boards or committees. It also became apparent that coordination may be needed in order to successfully integrate various initiatives championed or issues raised by the various boards and committees into local plans, regulations, and policies.

Tiffany Zezula and Jessica Bacher from Pace University Land Use Law Center will be in attendance via Zoom for the January 9th Village Board meeting to discuss the project with the Board and the next steps that may assist in the development of a structure that will allow for the Village to reassess various topics in the current Vision Plan using the resiliency work as an example. The suggested next step is for Pace to assist the Village in identifying what components of the Vision Plan are still relevant and what needs updating in terms of resiliency information and recommendations. At the meeting, Pace will present their thoughts on next steps, and I will discuss how we can assist in replicating the resiliency example for other topics in the current Vision Plan.

This is just an initial discussion, and if the Village is interested in furthering this idea, I can work with Pace to develop a general approach to the project and a timeline for the Village Board to review.

Village of Dobbs Ferry Resiliency Planning Project

**Village Board of Trustees
January 9, 2024**

The Land Use Law Center of Pace University School of Law

*Dedicated to fostering the
development of sustainable
communities through the promotion
of innovative land use strategies and
collaborative decision-making
techniques.*






LWRP Grant

LULC to work with five Mid-Hudson municipalities to develop innovative approaches for climate change adaptation and community resiliency.

Assistance would include:

- Conduct resiliency assessments
 - Identify and prioritize strategies for waterfront revitalization and resilience
 - Develop LWRP resiliency components
- 



Project Tasks

Establish Advisory Committee
Conduct FEMA/EPA Resilience
Implementation and Strategic
Enhancements (RISE) Local
Assessment

Develop Issues, Opportunities and Goals

Conduct Engagement Workshop

Identify Strategies

Develop Resiliency Component



Task: Establish Advisory Committee



Established an advisory committee to oversee all aspects of the project in cooperation with the Center.



The committee was a representation of relevant departments and boards.

Name	Affiliation	Email
Rob Yamuder	Village Administrator	villageadministrator@dobbsferry.com
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Ed Manley	CAC Chairperson	manleyhomeinspection@outlook.com
Rob Baron	Sustainability Task Force Secretary	robertbaron87@gmail.com
Paddy Steinschneider	Sustainability Task Force Member	arch329@gmail.com
Brendan O'Grady	Sustainability Committee	Brendan.ogrady06@gmail.com
Matthew Ghiorse	Sustainability Task Force Member	mrghiorse@gmail.com
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Daniel Roemer	Building Inspector	droemer@dobbsferry.com

RESILIENCE IMPLEMENTATION AND STRATEGIC ENHANCEMENTS (RISE)



LOCAL ASSESSEMENT TOOL



January 2020

RISE LOCAL ASSESSMENT TOOL

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Resilience Implementation and Strategic Enhancements (RISE) Local Assessment

- Members reviewed the Resilience Implementation and Strategic Enhancements (RISE) Local Assessment and voted on priorities.
- See https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-uJiD0fsxqxqfJHiPYKnzVz3KNy_YMyG/view?usp=sharing

	STRATEGY	CURRENTLY HAVE/USE? (Y/N)	WOULD LIKE TO HAVE/IMPROVE? (Y/N)	YOUR LOCAL LINKS & RESOURCES
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Equity component



Quick-start strategy



CRS linkages

1.7	V130/VE zone areas ²⁴ or Limit of Moderate Wave Action (LiMWA) ²⁵ identified in comprehensive plans (if applicable)	N N N	Y Y N Y N	Not identified in the Vision Plan. LiMWA is discussed on the Westchester County Flood Zones and Maps page.
1.8	Erosion studies exist for vulnerable coastal areas	N N N Y N N	Y Y Y Y N Y	Erosion is discussed throughout the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program document and the Hazard Mitigation Plan . Specific erosion studies are not mentioned.

ational Flood Insurance Program flood zone classifications. V130 means coastal flood with velocity hazard (wave action) and BFEs have not been determined. VE means an area dated by 1% annual chance flooding with velocity hazard (wave action); where base flood elevations have been determined, and flood elevation includes wave heights equal to or ter than 3 feet. www.fema.gov/zone-ve-and-v1-30
FEMA mapping standard for Flood Insurance rate maps; the inland limit of the area expected to receive 1.5-foot or greater breaking waves during the 1-percent-annual-chance l event, may be included on more recent Flood Insurance Rate Maps. www.fema.gov/vi/media-library/assets/documents/96413

Presentation on Existing Maps

Maps focused on coastal risks and environmental attributes were shared from a range of sources including the DOS Geographic Information Gateway, Westchester County GIS, and other federal sources such as the FEMA Flood Map Service Center



III. Watershed Characteristics

Steep Slopes in Village of Dobbs Ferry



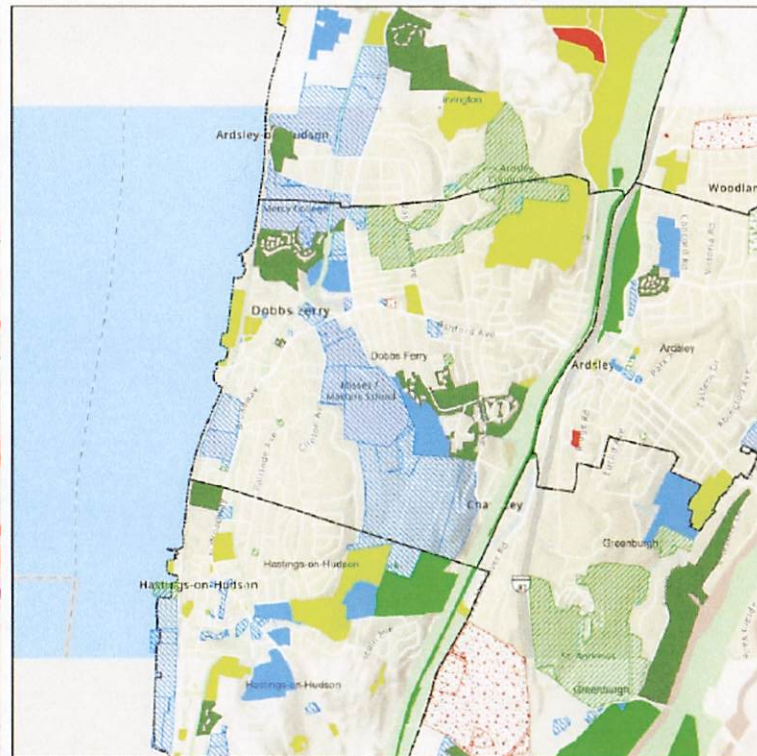
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- Municipal Boundaries
- Steep Slopes**
 - Slopes 15%-25%
 - Slopes Over 25%

Westchester GEO Hub

Open Space and Civic Institutions in Village of Dobbs Ferry



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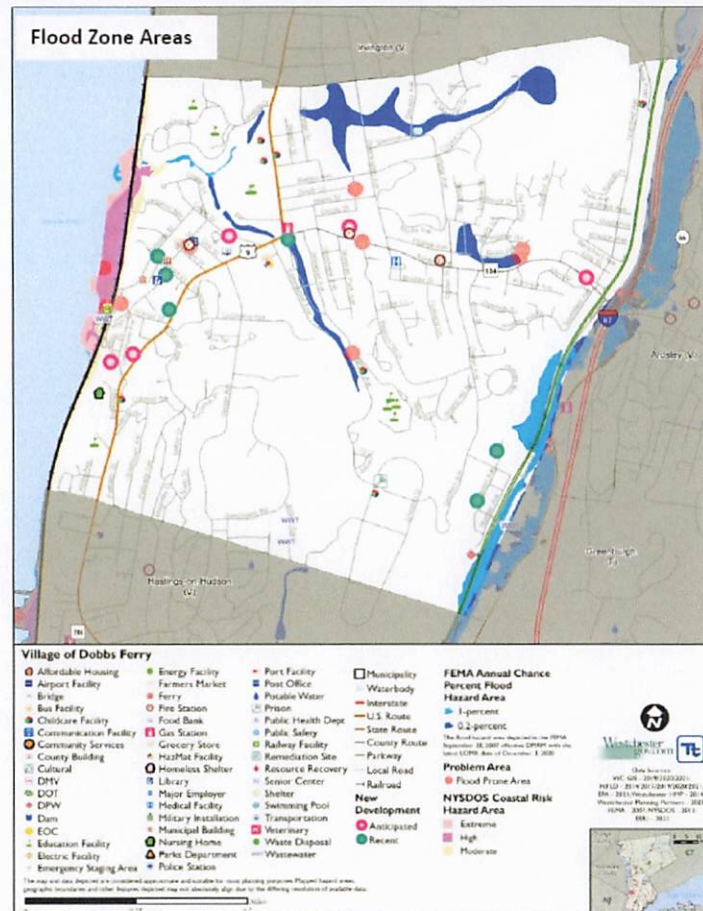
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- Municipal Boundaries
- Open Space**
 - County Parklands
 - State Parklands
 - Local Parks
- Nature Preserves
- Private Recreation
- Public Institutions
- Private Institutions
- Public Non-Park Lands
- Cemeteries
- Water Supply Lands
- Agricultural Categories
- Utility Lines and Aqueducts
- Home Owners Associations

Westchester GEO Hub

Steep slopes reduce the amount of infiltration into the ground while open space serve an important function for drainage and flood prevention.

V. Flood and Hazard Zones: Hazard Mitigation Plan Maps



Task: Issues, Opportunities and Goals

Using the RISE Local Assessment Tool approach, the Center worked with the Committee to identify and prioritize issues, opportunities, and goals for both waterfront revitalization and coastal resilience.

GOAL: Ensure Comprehensive Understanding of Known Hazards, Risks and Vulnerabilities, and their Potential Effects (Physical, Environmental, Economic, and Social)

- Location of socially vulnerable populations (e.g. age, income and poverty, education, housing, race, disability, social isolation) is identified in comprehensive plan, relative to hazards/hazard-prone areas
- A current inventory of structures located in floodplains and their current elevation status is maintained
- A current inventory of critical community facilities (e.g., fire stations, town hall, hospitals, emergency shelters, utilities, schools, etc.) located within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) (or the 1%/100-year floodplain) is maintained

GOAL: Conserve Land in Critical Coastal Areas, River Corridors, And Other Flood-Prone Environments

- Land conservation is considered when planning/designing capital improvements
- A plan or program to acquire (through purchase or donation) conservation easements on property with sensitive natural features to ensure long-term protection is in place
- Open space and natural features (e.g., water body buffer zone; source water protection zone) are conserved using overlay zoning districts
- Future projections are considered when determining regulatory setbacks for land adjacent to tidal waters

GOAL: Reduce Risk to People, Buildings, And Facilities in Vulnerable Areas

- Vulnerability assessment results are incorporated into relevant plans (e.g. comprehensive plan, hazard mitigation plan, land use plans, etc.)
- Incentives (e.g. tax abatements, fee waivers, insurance premium discounts, expedited permitting, etc.) are provided for first floor elevations and elevated systems (in the SFHA) above minimum NFIP standards
- Policies are in place to address nonconforming uses, structures, and/or lots

GOAL: Plan for and Actively Encourage Development in Areas that are Not Vulnerable

- Data is used to identify safe growth areas, inform hazards analysis, and develop future projections
- Incentives are provided (e.g. height or density bonuses, tax abatement, expedited permitting, fee waivers, etc.) for development in safer growth areas
- Community has planned for managed retreat

GOAL: Implement Comprehensive Stormwater Management Techniques

- Goal(s) within comprehensive plan encourages green infrastructure (GI) in new development
- Green infrastructure is featured in a sustainable streetscapes program
- Incentives (e.g. tax abatements, fee waivers, development intensity bonus, expedited permitting, etc.) are provided for on-site stormwater retention/management
- Site plan requirement that requires development to retain all stormwater on site has been adopted

GOAL: Expand the Village's Capacity to Enhance Resilience

- Staff is trained in long term flood resilience planning and implementation
- Partnerships are developed to help local businesses evaluate their exposure to natural events and take steps to reduce exposure
- Local government emergency response personnel, floodplain manager, department of public works personnel, and/or hazard mitigation planner (or the like) is involved in developing/updating the community's comprehensive plan

GOAL: Build Support for Improving Community Resilience and Remove Barriers to Implementation

- A website or regularly mailed bulletin informs the public about upcoming/ongoing/complete community resilience efforts
- Multilingual outreach is conducted to inform the public about upcoming/ongoing/complete community resilience efforts
- An annual plan of actions is produced, prioritizing the year's resilience building projects and efforts
- Code is amended or ordinances adopted to allow renewable energy on individual properties and in communal installations (microgrids)

Task: Strategy Development

The Center worked with the Committee to review and prioritize draft strategies, including whether the Vision Plan or LWRP need to updated.

Identify Priority Strategies


For each of the focus areas you responded to in the tool, identify three to five priority strategies that you would like to implement or explore further.

FOCUS AREA:


STRATEGIES

FOCUS AREA:

STRATEGIES



Task: Final Resiliency Components



The Center will develop a component focused on resiliency. The resiliency component will include the assessment and prioritized planning goals appropriate for the Village with implementing strategies including identifying opportunities for updating the Vision Plan.

Task: Engagement Workshop: Multi-Committee/Board Work Session



- Village planning and committees are in topic-based silos.
- There is a need for this resiliency effort to bridge silos and garner input by conducting a multi-committee/board work session.

Next Steps

➤ **Identify and Invite Representatives from Relevant Land Use Boards/Committees**

- *Planning Board, Zoning Board, Sustainable Dobbs, Conservation Advisory Board, Affordable Housing Task Force, Dobbs Ferry Tree Consortium, Parks and Rec Commission, Traffic Committee, Tree Commission*

➤ **Host Work Session**

➤ **Share Draft Resiliency Plan and Discuss Integration Effort**

➤ **Process for Integration Effort into Vision Plan**

Utilizing the Plan Modification Form/New Chapter or Appendix Form

- Identify Appropriate chapter/section in Vision Plan
- Conduct a cross-walk between the new plan and the identified chapter/section
- Decide whether chapter/section should be modified, become a new chapter or be integrated as an appendix
- Complete appropriate form
 - Modification Form
 - New Chapter/Appendix Form