

Parks & Environment BOL Meeting Minutes - Final



Committee Chair: David Tubiolo

800 Michaelian Office Bldg.
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601
www.westchesterlegislators.com

Monday, March 3, 2025

10:00 AM

Committee Room

Joint with B&A

CALL TO ORDER

Please note: Meetings of the Board of Legislators and its committees are held at the Michaelian Office Building, 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains, New York, 10601, and remotely via the WebEx video conferencing system. Legislators may participate in person or via Webex. Members of the public may attend meetings in person at any of its locations, or view it online on the Westchester County Legislature's website: <https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com/> This website also provides links to materials for all matters to be discussed at a given meeting. *With a quorum present, Chair Tubiolo called the meeting to order at 10:42 AM.*

Others in Attendance: GUESTS: Peter Tartaglia, Rob Lopane, Dianne Vanadia, Blanca Lopez, Brian Hegt; BOL: Jose Alvarado, Shanae Williams, Judah Holstein, Colin Smith, Dayana Gomez, Lisa Hochman, James Silverberg, Warren Watson

Present: Legislator Tubiolo and Legislator Woodson-Samuels

Absent: Legislator Barr, Legislator Nolan and Legislator Pierce

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. [RES-2025-22](#) **ENV RES-RWPR5-Ward Pound Ridge Reservation Fire Tower**

AN ENVIRONMENTAL RESOLUTION determining that there will be no significant impact on the environment from the proposed Capital Project RWPR5 - Ward Pound Ridge Reservation Fire Tower.

SUBMITTED BY: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS, PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION AND PARKS & ENVIRONMENT

Joint with B&A.

Guests: Parks, Recreation & Conservation

First Deputy Commissioner Peter Tartaglia

Director of Program Development Rob Lopane

This item was discussed in conjunction with the next two items, #2025-63 is a Capital Budget Amendment and #2025-64 is a Bond Act, both relating to the construction of the Ward Pound Ridge Fire Tower. The capital budget amendment requests an increase to the County's share by \$900,000 to construct the fire tower, for which the design portion is almost complete. The

total estimate of this project is for \$1.8 Million: the County's share is \$1.7 Million and New York State approved a reimbursable grant of \$100,000 via Senator Harckham's office. In 2021, a bond was approved for \$300,000 which was used to purchase the tower, designing and assessment for this project. A 100-foot fire tower will be built in the same location of the previous one, preventing substantial disturbance to the property with the exception of minor site cleaning to enter construction materials and begin construction. There has been a lot of support for this fire tower from community members and environmental groups along with additional funding via donations and grants through various organizations. A combination of staff and volunteers will be working on this project and it is expected to be completed in 2026. In addition to responding to fire emergencies, this area will be used as an education and visiting site for students and families. During construction, an eight-foot tall fence will surround the premise for safety purposes.

This RESOLUTION - Environmental Resolution was continued

2. [ACT-2025-56](#) **CBA-RWPR5-Ward Pound Ridge Reservation Fire Tower**

AN ACT amending the 2025 County Capital Budget Appropriations for Capital Project RWPR5 - Ward Pound Ridge Reservation Fire Tower.

COMMITTEE REFERRAL: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS, PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION AND PARKS & ENVIRONMENT

Joint with B&A.

Guests: Parks, Recreation & Conservation

First Deputy Commissioner Peter Tartaglia

Director of Program Development Rob Lopane

Please refer to item #1.

This ACT - Capital Budget Amendment was continued

3. [ACT-2025-57](#) **BOND ACT (Amended)-RWPR5-Ward Pound Ridge Reservation Fire Tower**

AN Amended BOND ACT authorizing an additional ONE MILLION, FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND (\$1,400,000) DOLLARS in bonds of Westchester County to finance Capital Project RWPR5 - Ward Pound Ridge Reservation Fire Tower, making the total amount ONE MILLION, SEVEN86 HUNDRED THOUSAND (\$1,700,000) DOLLARS.

SUBMITTED BY: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS, PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION AND PARKS & ENVIRONMENT

Joint with B&A.

Guests: Parks, Recreation & Conservation

First Deputy Commissioner Peter Tartaglia

Director of Program Development Rob Lopane

Please refer to item #1.

This ACT - Bond Act was continued

4. [RES-2025-23](#) **PH-Yonkers Waterfront Park**

A Public Hearing on "A LOCAL LAW authorizing the County of Westchester ("County") to enter into an intermunicipal agreement with the City of Yonkers, whereby the County will lease

certain property from the City of Yonkers and contribute FIFTEEN MILLION (\$15,000,000) DOLLARS toward the construction of upland site work improvements, including remediation work, to create a riverfront park in Yonkers." [Public Hearing set for March 24, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.]. LOCAL LAW INTRO: 2025-66.

SUBMITTED BY: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS, PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION AND PARKS & ENVIRONMENT

Joint with B&A.

Guests: Planning Department
Commissioner Blanca Lopez

Assistant to the Commissioner Brian Hegt-DPWT

This item was discussed in conjunction with the next four items: 2025-66 is a local law, 2025-67 is a capital budget amendment, 2025-68 is a bond act and 2025-69 is an act. The Yonkers Waterfront Park project is part of Capital Project BLA 1A, which allows the addition of recreational spaces in the County. If approved, the items will allow the County to enter into an IMA with the City of Yonkers for the county to contribute up \$15M for the creation of a park, for the County to lease a 4.2-acre parcel of land to the city, and the conveyance of .4 acres of County property to the city. The total cost for this project is \$22 Million and the County's share is up to \$15 Million via bond act. Funding for this project stem from Capital Project BLA 1A, which is the Parkway and Historic Preservation Fund, into Capital Project BLA 1A-2800, which is the Yonkers Waterfront Park. The lease agreement for the easement will be for \$1 to the City of Yonkers.

This RESOLUTION - Public Hearing was continued

5. [2025-66](#) **LOCAL LAW-Yonkers Waterfront Park**

A LOCAL LAW authorizing the County of Westchester ("County") to enter into an intermunicipal agreement with the City of Yonkers, whereby the County will lease certain property from the City of Yonkers and contribute FIFTEEN MILLION (\$15,000,000) DOLLARS toward the construction of upland site work improvements, including remediation work, to create a riverfront park in Yonkers.

SUBMITTED BY: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS, PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION AND PARKS & ENVIRONMENT

Joint with B&A.

Guests: Planning Department
Commissioner Blanca Lopez

Assistant to the Commissioner Brian Hegt-DPWT

Please refer to item #4.

This LOCAL LAW - Proposed Local Law was continued

6. [2025-67](#) **CBA-BLA1A-2800-Yonkers Waterfront Park**

AN ACT amending the 2025 County Capital Budget Appropriations for Capital Project BLA1A-2800 -Yonkers Waterfront Park.

SUBMITTED BY: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS, PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION AND PARKS & ENVIRONMENT

Joint with B&A.
Guests: Planning Department
Commissioner Blanca Lopez

Assistant to the Commissioner Brian Hegt-DPWT
Please refer to item #4.

This ACT - Capital Budget Amendment was continued

7. [2025-68](#) **BOND ACT-BLA1A-2800-Yonkers Waterfront Park**

A BOND ACT authorizing the County to issue FIFTEEN MILLION (\$15,000,000) DOLLARS in bonds of Westchester County to finance the construction of upland site work improvements to create the Park, including remediation work.

SUBMITTED BY: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS, PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION AND PARKS & ENVIRONMENT

Joint with B&A.
Guests: Planning Department
Commissioner Blanca Lopez

Assistant to the Commissioner Brian Hegt-DPWT
Please refer to item #4.

This ACT - Bond Act was continued

8. [2025-69](#) **ACT-Property Conveyance-1 Fernbrook Street, Yonkers**

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to convey to the City of Yonkers County property located at 1 Fernbrook Street, Yonkers, New York, to be used for park and recreational purposes.

SUBMITTED BY: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS, PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION AND PARKS & ENVIRONMENT

Joint with B&A.
Guests: Planning Department
Commissioner Blanca Lopez

Assistant to the Commissioner Brian Hegt-DPWT
Please refer to item #4.

This ACT - Property Conveyance was continued

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Tubiolo adjourned the Committee at 11:20 AM.