

The Piermont Newsletter

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Piermont Revisits Its Waterfront Plan

In 1984 the Village of Piermont undertook a long-range planning project that evolved into the Piermont Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP), completed and approved by NY State in 1992. Piermonters Kathryn Smith, Stan Jacobs and Beverly Houghton and their fellow planning board members began the process, with significant later contributions by former Piermont resident Thomas Mitchell, which focused on Piermont's natural environment. The plan was completed by a team led by former Trustee Charlie Berger and approved by the State of New York in 1992.

The LWRP was instrumental in allowing Piermont to shape and dictate its own future as developers came forward to rebuild the Pier after its factories closed in the early 1980's. The document is of historic significance, describing the history of the village, its existing natural resources and configuration in the 1980's and, most importantly, Piermont's aspirations.

It is this document that refers to the Piermont Village goal of maintaining the "residential amenity" of the village, recognizing the importance of a successful commercial downtown and waterfront but never losing sight of Piermont as first and foremost a residential community. The LWRP, by giving value and quantifying "residential amenity" as well as so many natural and sociologic details of Piermont Village, became the foundation of the planning process for not only Piermont Landing, but also for other development going forward. It is the LWRP that was the source of our "Crit-

ical Environmental Area" designations from the waterfront to the Erie Path, which brought added land protections through our zoning laws.

Among the goals listed in the document more than 20 years ago were maintaining the viability of Marina uses on the waterfront as well as creation of a Village marina facility (a concept that didn't survive the final plan for Piermont Landing). Additionally, the LWRP cites maintaining both waterfront and hillside viewsheds, creating village boat launch, and a public walkway on the north side of the pier as goals. The creation of Flywheel

Park is there along with a wish to see historic designations (district) within the village, acquisition of new parking areas, and a goal to acquire the properties (Cowboy fields) adjacent to the then Tappan Zee Elementary School.

While so much has been accomplished, and Piermont Landing—a relatively low-density mixed use development (7.5 units to an acre)—is now an integrated part of our village, many goals have not been realized.

Last year, with a \$35,000 grant in hand from NY State to hire a planning *continued on page 12*



Ladik Street, Circa 1930 © 2015 www.piermontstraus.com
See Piermont's Patch on page 3



Piermont Holiday Festival, Sunday, December 6, Noon-7pm



President's Corner



If a fish ladder sounds like a Dr. Seuss creation to you, you are not alone. That's what I first thought too, but they are real and a gift we can make to nature. If all goes well, Piermont will have one this spring.

I learned about fish ladders when my buddy and fellow Piermonter Ron Derven and I heard that some people wanted the state to tear down the Sparkill Creek dam. (The dam is visible from the Silk Mill Bridge at the bottom of Rockland Road.) The folks who want to remove the dam consider themselves conservationists.

They say the dam blocks migrating fish (that's true) and that they want to restore the creek the way it was in the past. What past? Goods were unloaded from ships at Piermont Slote and loaded onto barges. These were pulled

up the creek to Tappan. That past?

I have a selfish reason for wanting to save the dam. I live on the Sparkill Creek pond and it would disappear if the dam was gone. Ron, like me, appreciates the pond for its rich variety of wildlife and its beauty. We also both worry about the unintended downstream (where he lives) consequences if the dam was ripped out.

Last spring we, along with a few other Piermonters who shared our fears, went to a Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) meeting on dams. It turned out it was mostly for engineers and highway department supervisors but we learned two things: New York State is responsible for thousands of dams, many of them in perilous, life-threatening condition. It can't afford to fix them. Our dam is sound.

The state has no interest in taking it down.

There also were mentions of fish ladders. We learned that many other tributaries to the Hudson with dams have them. Volunteers, including high school students, operate them in the spring when they are needed. They collect thousands of baby glass eels and fish in buckets and carry over the dams and release them. The baby eels are born in waters near Bermuda and make their way up the Hudson to live in its creeks and streams until they mature.

Our Village Board is enthusiastic about Piermont getting a fish ladder and so is the DEC. Details have to be worked out. We'll also need volunteers. Stay tuned.

~Bob Samuels



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Editor: **Margaret Grace**

Contributors to this issue: **Fred Burrell, Ron Derven, Susan Freiman, Joan Gussow, Jessica Kesselman, Robert Samuels, Barbara Schulen, Staff of the Piermont Library**

Advertising: **Charlene Stern**
(845) 359-0032

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Piermont's Patch

I live in The Patch. Tucked away off Piermont Avenue, I sometimes refer to our neighborhood as Brigadoon, the mysterious village that rises from the Scotland mists once every one hundred years. It's hidden behind 14th and Hudson restaurant, down Ohio Street, and barely visible from surrounding roads. We don't get many trick or treaters, but we do get our share of lost drivers looking for access to The Pier. Visitors from other parts of Piermont often say, "I had no idea this was here!" On occasion, we really do disappear into the fog.

In the mid-1920s, several homes were built on Ladik and Liberty streets. A few more have been added since then, and it once featured a trucking company and café. An aerial view of The Patch looks like a postage stamp with a tail that ends on its western edge at the back of the former Sons of Italy Social Club of Piermont, now a private home. It's made up of an equal number of renters and home-owners. The Patch has been home to many long-time Piermont residents and their descendants, a former fire chief, local business owners, and celebrities, including Alan Ruck. If you haven't lived in The Patch, you probably know someone who has.

(and unmarked) Michigan Street. There was the pogo stick phase, and that time they all went to a village board meeting to ask for a stop sign at the bottom of Ohio St. to make it a little safer for them to play. And now, one of them is learning to drive. The Patch really belongs to them, after all. With very little car traffic and easy access to The Village, pier and parks, the kids in The Patch grow up with a sense of safety, community, and independence that many of us remember from our childhoods.

My daughter calls Piermont "rurban"; the perfect combination of rural and suburban life. When we moved to The Patch, our neighbor's chickens would roam through our yard. A pair of ducks stroll the streets every spring like an old married couple. Ospreys and Cormorants fly overhead. A few years ago, a long-eared owl spent a day in a backyard tree. Possum, skunk, squirrels, and groundhogs are frequently spotted here, in addition to the wide variety of songbirds. Occasionally, deer wander into the Patch, and the poor things look lost, baffled as to how to get out. Maybe they were looking for the Pier, too? It's nice to have all this within walking distance of a very good cup of coffee.

It falls just short of an absolute Utopia with the threat from the very thing that makes Piermont so special. The Patch floods. The brackish water from the salt-marsh will creep up Ohio St.

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Miche And The Monarchs



Miche Brisson releases a Monarch butterfly. Photo by Fred Burrell

Last September 7 Miche Brisson notified a few interested friends that eight of her home-raised Monarch butterflies—five females, three males—had hatched and she was planning to release them at 10 a.m. in the Piermont Community Garden. At the appointed time, she and Mayor Sanders—an accidental visitor—arrived at my house just next to the garden, Miche carrying a lovingly handmade cotton mesh cage where eight large orange and black Monarchs were clinging or fanning their wings, getting ready for flight.

The 11 of us, people and butterflies, (four males, seven females) moved into the garden, back to a spot where there were nearby flowers. There, after several other gardeners had joined us, Miche put her hand gently into the cage, coaxed the 8 butterflies one by one onto her fingers and then eased them out of the cage and into freedom. Two wanted to be hand transported onto waiting zinnias, two flew onto other nearby flowers and four floated away with some other destination in mind.

As is widely known by now, Monarch butterflies—those magnificent burnt-orange and black winged gifts of Nature whose yearly north/south mass migrations include travel down the Hudson in late summer—are in desperate decline. They are in trouble at least partly because of the loss of their winter roost in Mexico, but also because the widespread use of herbicides on Midwestern fields kills the milkweed that feeds the Monarch larvae. So there are serious efforts afoot to save Monarchs by encouraging the planting of milkweed.

It was sometime after 2001, shortly after she and her husband

John Leeds, moved to Piermont Avenue just south of the basketball court, when Miche first realized that the monarch caterpillars on the milkweed in front of her house risked becoming bird food, and that she could save them by raising them indoors. Then in 2008, they both attended a two-day workshop on “Teaching and learning with Monarch Butterflies”—brilliantly organized because it was put together by teachers, Miche says with a smile—where they learned to make monarch hatching cages and became members of the Monarch Teachers Network. After that, home raising of adults became only the endpoint of Miche’s involvement in Monarch lives.

Because of her passion for scattering milkweed seeds when she drives along 9W and Kings Highway, for spying egg-laying monarchs on the milkweed in her front yard and around half-moon park, for collecting the egg-bearing leaves to bring home and protect from predator ants, and for raising the hatched monarch larvae from thread-sized babies to full-sized adults on stalks of milkweed stuck in eight or so jars on her dining room table—because she does all this, all summer—Miche has generations of Monarchs at all stages of life to bring to school in the fall so that her students can watch the entire process.

So the September 7th Piermont release was followed by several others made possible largely because the Monarchs had the grace to hatch on school holidays. Miche teaches 7th grade English and usually brings the butterflies ready to hatch at home to Tenafly Middle School for release. She has done this ever since John started a butterfly garden at the school where he also taught.

There were 56 homebred adults to release this year, 10 of them released at school. And what does releasing Monarchs have to do with teaching middle schoolers who are, as Miche said “children in the 6th grade, and young adults in 8th.” They learn, she says about one creature turning into another. Here is the end of a note one of her students wrote her—an unassigned note—after one Monarch release:

“One by one they flew into the clear, blue sky, looking back once more before saying goodbye forever. They were five orange specks in the blue sky . . . We all watched in awe as
continued on page 11”

Larry Siegel

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Our Police Have Electronic Marvels

Police Chief Michael O'Shea remembers stopping a car years ago for having a loud muffler: "Something about the driver didn't seem right," the Chief said. "I called in the plate number to the Orangetown police headquarters, which was providing backup. They called back, 'Where are you? Where are you?'" The then Patrolman O'Shea heard the urgency in the dispatcher's voice.

"I said to myself this does not sound good," recalls O'Shea. "I told them that I was in front of the Tappan Zee Elementary School. They told me that the guy I had stopped was wanted for murder in Metro Dade [Florida]. He had shot a guy who took his laundry. I had to wait while the back up came all the way from Orangeburg." Fortunately, they made the arrest without any trouble.

Today's Piermont police officer, driving a car with an electronic license plate reader, would be aware of the potential danger before he stopped the car. It would have told him that the driver was a wanted man. The reader is the most amazing of the whizzbang set of electronic tools the Piermont Police Department now uses. It and a fingerprint scanner were bought with drug seizure and grant money. They did not add a dime to Piermont property tax bills, O'Shea says.

Two of the department's five vehicles have the scanners. They are the ones with the strange boxy antennas mounted on their trunks. The readers check license plates as vehicle

speed by in either direction. If there is anything wrong with a plate, an electronic beep alerts the patrolman. The device also puts a picture of the offending vehicle's rear on a screen, along with a message telling the officer what's wrong. It could be something relatively minor, like an expired license plate, or it could be that the driver is an escaped felon.

The scanner works incredibly fast, taking just a single second to check each plate against a database. That kind of speed is essential, O'Shea says, because more than 10,000 vehicles zip through the village on Route 9W each day. In warm weather, hundreds of tourists flood our streets.

Before getting a fingerprint scanner, Piermont police had to snail mail the fingerprint cards to the Rockland County Sheriff's office. "You might wait three weeks before you got the results," Chief O'Shea says. All that time, the police wouldn't be sure of whom they arrested. "Some bad guys have two or three names," O'Shea points out.

Now fingerprints are fired off electronically to local, state and federal databases. "In 20 to 30 minutes we have an answer: 'Yeah, this is Joe Smith, he's been arrested 16 times, he's wanted in Stony Point for burglary,' it might say," the Chief explains. All the information is turned over to the prosecutor. "They'll want to know if the accused has a record and what it was for. They don't want to release people with a violent past," says O'Shea.

Perhaps the new equipment that pleases him the most is the trunk radio system. It allows all the local police and fire departments to communicate directly. Until recently, Piermont's cops couldn't even talk by radio to Piermont's firemen without going through the county. Now, with the county paid for system, all local emergency services can call each other directly.

"We never had that before - that's huge!" says our 53-year-old Police Chief.

~ Bob Samuels

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Happy Anniversary Piermont Community Garden

This year the Piermont Community Garden is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Recently there was a wonderful Garden Gala, and I used the evening as an opportunity to ask Piermont Community gardeners where they saw their plots, and the garden as a whole, in 20 years. Some of the responses follow - read on and enjoy!

Ellen: More cut flowers

Katalin: More vegetables

Lisa: I see the garden expanding...there are so many people waiting to join us!

Claudia: I see the soil in my garden rich - full of time earned nutrients. I see 20 years of experience, success and failures bringing forth abundant, beautiful, thoughtful healthy vegetables, tended by the hands of my future grandchildren. And I see myself smiling.

Ellie: In 20 years I sincerely hope the garden and my plot are exactly where they are at this moment. It's a nice idea that some things never change! *Mary:* In twenty years, although technology may change how we approach and plan each year, the tradition of sharing knowledge, tricks, advice, seeds and saplings will never change.

Jessica: Twenty years from now.... Raised beds! The garden will be terraced, with beds elevated above the flood line. There will be drip hose irrigation, a greenhouse, perhaps? We'll have a seed library of heritage and heirloom varieties that will be in demand the world over! And we will grow enough produce to donate to those in need throughout the country. A girl can dream!

Sandy: In twenty years - a new irrigation system. Beds raised above the flood line. Expanding the garden—growing organic produce to give to those who need it... expanding the garden.

Katalin: In 20 years time I gather with my gardening and

true life friends to celebrate another 20 years of sowing the earth and reaping the amazing bounty of harvest. We celebrate 23 or so years of feeding our neighbors in need* with healthy foods and wholesome nutrition. We celebrate the joy we feel each year as the spring begins and hope and possibility once again fill our imaginations and dreams.

*Piermont Community Garden has long been a participant in the Plant a Row for the Hungry program.

~Susan Freiman

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Marlene Sanders' Vessels

Marlene Sanders makes clay vessels that have holes in them. You can see into them; you can see through them. They don't hold water. Instead they hold a sense of light and energy.

Marlene is a ceramic sculptor. "Clay is very solid and heavy. My idea is to make it ethereal and light." Her Open Form pieces are hand-built strips of clay that bend and twist in sinuous ways suggesting living creatures.

Marlene is married to Mayor Chris Sanders. They met when they were art students at the Parsons The New School in New York City. She was studying methods of illustration; Chris majored in communication and design. Their son, Benjamin is an undergraduate at Northeastern University in Boston. "Chris has always been a great fan of my work," Marlene said, "and he helps set up the kiln for firing."

Marlene worked as a professional illustrator, but phased out of it twenty years ago as computers ate into the market for hand drawn art. She began working with clay in classes at the Old Church Cultural Center in New Jersey and at Rockland Center for the Arts. "I like clay as a medium. It moves with me. It fits the way I like to work."

She's been teaching classes in hand-built pottery techniques at ROCA for the last two years. Marlene also works at The Outside In Piermont, arranging shows and acting as a liaison to artists.

Her studio in the backyard of their Piermont home was originally a one-car garage. One wall has been turned into a floor to ceiling window, making a bright, pleasant work space.

Marlene builds her open form pieces a segment at a time. She twists and bends flat sheets of clay into curved segments. With an Xacto knife she cuts rectangular holes into the segments as she attaches one to another. The result is a hollow biometric form made of strips of clay. "I like to make the



Marlene Sanders in her studio. Photo by Fred Burrell

inside as fascinating as the outside, inviting the viewer in."

Marlene does not work from a preliminary sketch. "I keep a soft idea of what I want to do so the aspects of the piece remain loose as I pull them together. A kind of grace comes through at the end."

She signs her work Marlene Krumm-Sanders, hyphenating her maiden name to her married name. Marlene's work has been shown at the Old Church Cultural Center and at ROCA. Her work has been accepted at the Northeast Ceramic Sculpture Exhibition at Art Centro in Poughkeepsie.

~Fred Burrell



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From The Library

The Library has received a generous donation from the Michael J. Armstrong Foundation. The funds are being utilized to add materials and fixtures to the Henderson Children's Room in the Library. While children have always enjoyed playing, exploring, and learning in the space, we believe the new additions to our collection will further enhance their Library experience. The funds have been used to add books to the collection and create two new sections of books for patrons to use and circulate. We have also added display fixtures and benches to make it easier for children and their parents to browse and read in our space.

We have purchased new Pop-Up books for parents, grandparents, guardians, friends and siblings to read and explore with the youngest visitors to the Library. We have also purchased books in the We Both Read series. With these books, children can practice reading at their own level and then listen as a more advanced reader tackles another part of the story. We have also added Read-a-Long books to the collection. These interactive sets include both a book and CD so children may listen to the story as they read along. The Library will purchase a copy of the 2016 World Book Encyclopedia to assist children with their research needs. In order to encourage the children to play creatively, we've also purchased new animals and furniture for

our dollhouse and a variety of puzzles. So, bring the children by to play, read and learn with our new items.

Upcoming children's events include: Anime Film Fun for Grades 5 and up on Monday, December 28th, 6 - 10 p.m. and Family Movie Night featuring Minions [PG] to be held Tuesday, December 29th at 2 p.m.

Navštivte knihovnu po hodinách se učít jiný jazyk. Curious as to what that says? Then check out the Library's website and use Rosetta Stone to learn Czech, French, Spanish, German and many more languages from the comfort of your own home. Reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills are introduced in core lessons, and then key skills such as grammar and vocabulary are refined in focused activities. You'll need your library card and a device that has Adobe Flash and then you're on your way!

The Library also offers the Universal Class service to its members. The service has a catalog of over 500 classes in subjects that range from Entrepreneurship, Arts and Music, Home and Garden Care, and Cooking to Computers and Technology. With real instructors guiding the learning, graded lesson tests, certificates of achievement and Continuing Education Units available for selected courses, students enjoy

an engaging and measurable learning experience that helps them master and document their educational goals. All you need is your Library card and a curious mind.

The village Holiday Festival is just around the corner! As part of the festival, the annual Gift of Art Show Open House will take place on Sunday, December 6th, from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. The theme of this year's show is, "Piermont and the Hudson: A Special Gift of Art Show Inspired by The Hudson River School." A wide variety of local artists are invited to take part in the show, with part of the proceeds benefiting our fund to continue to provide quality programming for the community. The works of art are affordable and make for thoughtful and unique holiday gifts for friends, family members or anyone with whom you would like to share Holiday cheer. Please join us, and your neighbors, at the reception for some conversation, hors d'oeuvres, live music, and a chance to support the library.

For more information on any of the events at the Dennis P. McHugh Piermont Public Library, please feel free to contact us at (845) 359-4595 or check us out on our website www.piermontlibrary.org, where you can join our mailing list to receive notifications of upcoming Library programs.



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News From Piermont Historical Society

Who is Eleazar Lord and what did he have to do with Piermont? How did Belle Kelly, Piermont Station Mistress, meet her husband? How many young men and women left from the Pier to defend our freedoms in WWII? Where was corrugated cardboard first produced? Questions like this, and their answers, are why the Piermont Historical Society (PHS) has such an interesting role to play

in our Village. Since re-opening the Railroad Station as a Museum two years ago, over a thousand people have come through. Many are amazed at the stories we have to tell and just as many come through and share their Piermont experiences and expertise. The PHS is working with the Village to ensure the viability of the Museum over the long term. Recently the PHS had a new floor put down for safety reasons. A generous grant to the Village from Senator David Carlucci's office will help to preserve this historic structure. One of our goals is to capture and communicate the collective memory of Piermont in earlier years through writings, oral history and video. Our first documentary, "Last Stop USA", captured Piermont in the 1940's. Betsy Franco-Feeny and Patti Panayotidis are working on a piece now that looks at the role the Paper Mills had in Piermont. We are hoping that residents will work with us again to share their memories about that time. For more information go to piermonthistory.org.

~Barbara Schulen

The Front Line

Lock Your Doors; Keep Roads Clear As Winter Approaches

With the holiday season approaching, Piermont Police Chief Michael O'Shea urges residents to lock their car doors. "Ninety percent of our car larcenies are through open doors. When shopping for presents for the holidays, do not leave packages unattended in the car where they can be seen. Lock them in the trunk, get them out of sight." While we in Piermont live in a safe neighborhood, the chief also advises everyone to lock the doors of their homes to make the area even safer and more crime free.

With predictions of heavy snowfalls and cold weather this winter, the chief urges residents to prepare their cars for emergencies. "Get the tire pressure and fluids in the car checked," he suggested. "Be prepared in case you run into an emergency situation. Go to a local auto store and buy a portable snow shovel for the car, in addition, get a good flashlight that can also act as a warning light."

He urges residents to keep the roads clear in case of a snow emergency. Don't leave your car on the road as a

storm approaches, which could hinder the DPW from clearing all roads in Piermont in an efficient manner.

Chief O'Shea continues to be concerned about telephone scams that have victimized some Piermont residents. In the typical scam, a caller will tell the resident that he or she has won the lottery or other money, but that the caller needs a processing fee to process the winning ticket. "If someone calls you and tells you that you have won the lottery," said the chief, "hang up. Do not engage with these people. Further, never give out any credit card, Social Security or banking information to such a caller."

If traveling or vacationing over the winter, the chief recommends calling the police and notifying them about your plans. The police will check on your home during the time you are away.

As a final reminder, he said that to keep the village as safe as possible, "if you see something, say something." "If you see something in the village that looks suspicious, it probably is. Call the police and we will check it out," he said.

Snow And Cold Are On The Way!

Tom Temple, Supervisor of the Piermont Department of Public Works (DPW), is reminding all Village residents to be mindful of where they place the snow as they clear snow from their driveways and sidewalks and asked that they refrain from throwing snow back into the roadways that the DPW has already cleared. "Snow thrown back into the street could refreeze and cause unsafe conditions," he said. "The DPW works hard to have the cleanest streets during the winter and snow put back in the roadway only impedes our progress."

The DPW has set two dates for Christmas tree recycling.

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Miche And The Monarchs continued from page 4

they flew out of sight, we were still watching in that direction long after they were gone. It was the experience of a lifetime; we will never forget the view, the anxiousness and happiness as they flew out into the world, ready to brave the dangers on their own. I hope that they will become responsible adults, they will have children, and those children will then become butterflies. But their perilous journey has just begun.

Thank you Mrs. Brisson. It was truly a memory I will never in my life forget. It will always be as clear as the sky was on that particular day. Your fascinating love of nature leads to great feats."

~Ron Derven

~Joan Gussow

The dates are Tuesday January 5th and Wednesday January 20th. All trees should be placed curbside by these dates with all decorations and lighting removed.

Fire Department Looks For Volunteers

The Piermont Fire Department is constantly looking for new members to join its ranks. Anyone who is interested in joining the Department should come to the firehouse on any Monday evening between 7-9 pm.

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Piermont Revisits Its LWRP continued from page 1

consultant, Piermont began to work on a LWRP revision. Mayor Sanders appointed more than a dozen resident volunteers to review and give recommendations for program updates. There were three areas of focus—The Pier/ Downtown/ Waterfront; the Sparkill Creek Corridor, and the Uplands areas of Piermont. Preliminary recommendations were made in early November. A few of those follow.

All groups reporting agreed that the Piermont Waterfront Resilience Task Force recommendations made by the Piermont Waterfront Resilience Commission—focusing on sustainability, reducing flood hazards and creation of a comprehensive emergency management plan—should be incorporated into the revised LWRP.

Initial recommendations from The Business/Waterfront group included maintaining access to the Hudson River through acquisition, at best (Knight’s of Columbus Marina, private land along

the river), and protecting existing view sheds, both along the river and on the hillside. It also addressed the viability of the Marina district and would like to see the village revisit questions of dredging in Piermont Bay. Concerns regarding the condition of Piermont Pier, the Pier Road and bulkhead at its eastern end were expressed, and well as a need to find revenue sources for maintenance of those valuable assets, possibly through parking fees from Piermont’s thousands of visitors.

The Sparkill Corridor focused on flood control, recommending that the village should advocate for separation of storm-water drainage from the sanitary sewerage system. They also recognized the need for a second route for electricity into the village—all electric now enters only on Ferdon Ave. Additionally, they recommended, “The Piermont Marsh ecosystem should be unaltered in order to sustain the storm-surge protection it provides, and to


sustain its beauty and its attractiveness as a visual, economic, and recreation resource.”

The Uplands report asked for Piermont to expand its Critical Environmental Area designation all the way to the Clausland Mountain ridge-line, identify uphill flood zones corridors such as St. John’s stream, and preserve and acquire when possible the open space such as Whiton Pond and wetlands behind the Tappan Zee school property. The group also recommended that Piermont and revisit standards and policies for building on the hillside.

The larger group of participants in the LWRP revision process will become a smaller Steering Committee, according to Trustee Steve Silverberg, and be submitting an initial list of priorities in early 2016.

Aspiration will be joined by foresight when the knowledge gained from outcomes of Piermont’s 1990’s LWRP is combined with climate-change related resiliency recommendations, and the village plans for a mid-century Piermont..

~Margaret Grace



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Piermont's Patch continued from page 3

during high tides under full and new moons, and we suffered complete inundation during both Super Storm Sandy and Hurricane Irene. The area is now considered high risk for flooding according to the 2014 Piermont Waterfront Resilience Taskforce report. Unfortunately, with sea level rise forecast to be as high as ten inches by the 2020s, this problem is only going to get worse over time. That being said, if the definition of a patch is a piece of something used to mend or strengthen, then that's what this village within a village became after each severe weather event. We accept it as a part of life here.

In fifty years, will the Patch still be here? Like many other neighborhoods in Piermont, we embrace autumn with open arms and a watchful eye on the weather reports, grateful for Klaus Jacob's community e-mails with their high tide predictions to measure against the highest points of Irene and Sandy's storm surges. The kids of the Patch know they are growing up in a special place, and they are fiercely protective of it. Like the generations before them, they will take their memories of growing up here and it will always be a part of who they are.

~Jessica Kesselman



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