

West Point Waterfront Development Strategic Plan What's Next? November 2004

With funding from the Virginia Department of Forestry, in October 2004, West Point citizens were asked to participate in strategic planning input forums about diversifying the Town's economy through the use of its natural resources. Input from participants indicated that tourism, recreation, and waterfront development were the areas the town should pursue in its economic diversification efforts. Working with world-renowned landscape architect Carlton Abbott, the citizens developed a conceptual vision of how waterfront development encouraging tourism and recreation in the town of West Point could be designed on two potential development sites. The attached sketches by Carlton Abbott illustrate the vision.

During the strategic planning sessions citizens undertook an analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats associated with the proposed vision. After this analysis, participants determined strategic directions and action steps. Near term next steps include:

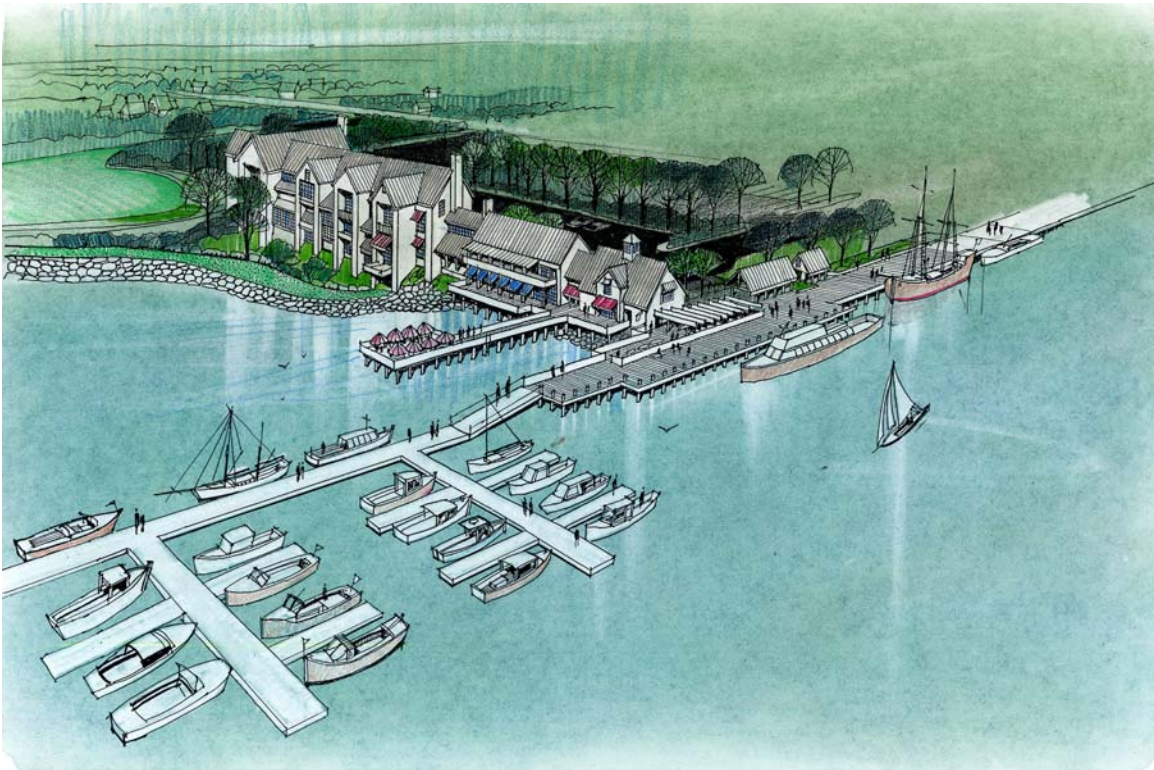
- Organize interested volunteers in a committee to pursue the action steps. (Organize in December 2004. Begin work in January 2005.)
- Partner with the Mattaponi Pamunkey River Association on a design charette to create a conceptual vision for Kiwanis Park on Glass Island, a third potential waterfront development site in the town. (January 2005)
- Pursue grant funds to analyze regulatory issues around waterfront development and to develop a clear regulatory framework for waterfront development in West Point. This would involve a Zoning Ordinance review and proposed Waterfront Overlay District. (Apply for grant November 2004. Work February 2005 – September 2005.)
- Analyze West Point's competition and potential partners in waterfront development. (February 2005 – June 2005)

A detailed version of the strategic plan developed from the community input forums will be available in December from the Economic Development Office at Town Hall or via an email request at mdewitt@west-point.va.us.

Many thanks to the Virginia Department of Forestry for funding this strategic planning initiative.



Conceptual Idea for Third Street on the Pamunkey



Conceptual Idea for Seventh Street on the Mattaponi