



CITY OF PEEKSKILL
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

John G. Testa
Mayor

Peekskill Landing Redevelopment Efforts Move Forward With Hiring a Waterfront Coordinator

New efforts will lay foundation for future efforts

For Immediate Release

Monday, March 15, 2004

Contact: Brian Havranek
914-737-3400

PEEKSKILL, NY— In a major step forward in the City's continuing efforts to improve and redevelop the a key portion of its waterfront property. the City of Peekskill has hired Michael Ritchie of Dolph Rotfeld Engineering, P.C.; as the Waterfront Coordinator who will provide administration and management over the Peekskill Landing Project.

Before joining Dolph Rotfeld Engineering of Tarrytown, NY, Michael Ritchie had a successful thirty-two year career as a manager in the public sector. Most recently he served first as the Deputy Commissioner and then Commissioner of Economic Development for the City of New Rochelle.

Prior to working for New Rochelle, Mr. Ritchie served as a Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Public Works for Westchester County. Mr. Ritchie has also served as Village Manager for the Village of Port Chester and the Village of Pleasantville.

Peekskill Landing is four-acres of waterfront property located on the shores of the Hudson River that are owned jointly by the City of Peekskill and the Scenic Hudson Land Trust, Inc. The property was formerly the Tallix Foundry and is currently vacant. The land is adjacent to the City's Riverfront Green Park and runs for about 1,800 feet north of McGregory Brook, its southern boundary. It was purchased in 1998, and its redevelopment as parkland has been the subject of extensive discussions.

“Peekskill has one of the most beautiful and accessible waterfronts on the Hudson River. It's wonderful that work is moving forward on such an important resource for the City's future,” says Mayor John Testa. “Scenic Hudson has been an invaluable partner, and we tremendously appreciate their support,” he says.

Since the property was purchased, a number of grants have been received from state and federal sources to redevelop the property. The coordinator will make certain that the grant money is spent in a coordinated and efficient fashion.

At present, the New York State Department of State has granted \$297,500 for shoreline stabilization and the installation of rip rap, which consists of large stones that strongly resist erosion. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has allocated \$50,400 for soil investigation. Another \$100,000 is available for waterfront outreach and design.

The Waterfront Coordinator will focus solely on Peekskill Landing. The overall responsibilities of the Waterfront Coordinator are to plan, coordinate, manage and implement projects to redevelop and improve the Peekskill Landing site for public use and benefit.

The position requires the Waterfront Coordinator to perform tasks such as: grant writing, administration and management; procurement and management of various consultant teams; facilitation of meetings with officials from the City, New York State Department of State, the Scenic Hudson Land Trust, Inc. (SHLT), and other government agencies; completion of periodic progress reports; and participation, as requested by the City, in various local and regional waterfront planning activities.

For more information, contact Brian Havranek at (914) 737-3400.