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\$350,000 New York State EPF Grant Award for Port Washington North



Photograph by Rachel Weitzner

Pictured: Port Washington North Mayor Bob Weitzner and State Senator Michael Balboni

The Village of Port Washington North received a \$350,000 grant award from the New York State Department of State to be used specifically for the Bay Walk Waterfront Park Project's northern pier restoration. Port North's Board of Trustees and its residents give special thanks to Senator Michael Balboni and Assemblyman Thomas DiNapoli for helping the Village secure the State funding, Town Supervisor Jon Kaiman for the commitment of additional funds for the project, and Residents For A More Beautiful Port Washington for their input on aesthetics and pier design.

The pier will feature seating areas protected by a canopy, a fishing dock, and a float to receive boats. It will also have decorative lighting from one end to the other. Once completed, the community will be able to take in the magnificent sites of Manhasset Bay, fish off a pier, and visit Port North via the water using a floating dock that will accommodate small boats, and perhaps a water taxi. "It's hard to imagine that just 5 years ago this was a dilapidated area with a pier used for transferring heating oil. Now we have the funding to make something really great happen for the entire Port Washington community. This pier will be the centerpiece of the Bay Walk Plan. I joke when I tell people that Port Washington North is the only Port without a port. That will soon change." says Mayor Bob Weitzner of Port Washington North, who is directing the Bay Walk Waterfront Park project. Adds State Senator Michael Balboni, "The reclamation of Port Washington North's waterfront has been a long-time goal for many in the community. That's why I was so pleased to be able to secure this state grant toward the Bay Walk Waterfront Park Project that will increase public access and recreational opportunities at the waters edge to be enjoyed by all."

The pier design is currently under review with the Department of Environmental Conservation. Once a permit is issued, with the funding now in place for both the baywalk and the pier, work will begin, perhaps as soon as next summer.

Port Washington North, with the Town of North Hempstead, is well on its way to making significant improvements along the community's waterfront for the benefit of the entire Port Washington Peninsula. Adds Weitzner, "What's most gratifying about this project is to see the visionary planning of the Bay Walk that was started years ago by former Mayor Tom Pellegrino and his planning board members; most notably, Chairman Tom Imperatore, Stan Ronell, Dr. Irwin Kellner, and Marty Deising, come to be. The torch has been passed and I am excited to work with the entire community to move the project forward."