

VISION STATEMENT FOR IRVINGTON WATERFRONT

Preface: *“Our water is our jewel, and we will continue to protect Carter’s Creek...for future generations to enjoy. We also support redevelopment of a working waterfront and innovative efforts to expand public access to the water.”* Vision Statement for Irvington April 4, 2019, signed by Anthony Marchetti, Marsha Chapman, Jackie Brown, Mike Mattheisen, Bruce Sanders and Mike Bombay

As you can see, this Committee’s vision is not new. We refer to the vision above written in 2019. The 2023 committee’s goal is to bring this vision to fruition so future generations will enjoy this historic step in gaining waterfront greenspace and a working waterfront for all residents to enjoy.

Underlying Reason The waterfront has been integral to Irvington’s identity from its origins in the steamboat era and throughout the ongoing development of the Town. It has always been our Town’s source of our quality of life and prosperity. Our vision is to build on Irvington’s waterfront character and charm to enhance its attractiveness as a premier Chesapeake community for current and future residents.

The difference between today and 2019 is the waterfront is rapidly disappearing and is being replaced by residential development.

Objective: To preserve and protect our working waterfront and to provide a beautiful view of and thoughtful access to the water for all, especially the residents of Irvington.

Strategy: Research acquisition or donation of an appropriate waterfront parcel. Once property is secured, commission a development plan for a community waterfront.

Possible Uses: While prospective uses may change as we move through the process (see below), it is essential that we have a waterfront park that offers scenic views of the water with part of it being a thoughtful working waterfront. We see the greenspace to be ideal for picnics, viewing the activity on the water and the already-in-place sailboat races, Christmas boat parade and 4th of July fireworks.

We envision a working waterfront to be both recreational and commercial, the latter being no different than what already exists on Carter’s Creek.

Recreational uses TBD: a marina (some sites already have one), recreational boating, kayaking, paddle boarding, fishing, crabbing, transient slips, and rental slips for Irvington residents only...

Commercial uses TBD: traditional watermen oystering and crabbing, boat repair and servicing...

Possible Restrictions: It is likely that parking will be limited in scope with possible special consideration for Irvington residents, slip holders...Golf carts, bicycles and walkers will be encouraged.

Funding: The committee will explore all available sources of capital.

Process: The proposed uses will be subject to public hearings and comments. Final approval will come from the Town Council.

Conclusion: The 2023 Waterfront Committee hereby presents its vision for land on the water and we wholeheartedly believe that should we be successful in securing a waterfront parcel, it will be of **historic significance for generations to come.**

Dudley Patteson, Judy Penniman, Ian Ormesher, Philip Williams