



TOWN OF RIVERHEAD NEWS

Office of the Supervisor

YVETTE M. AGUIAR

200 Howell Avenue

Riverhead, NY 11901

(631) 727-3200

www.townofriverheadny.gov

PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Donna Sadowsky, Legislative Secretary (631) 727-3200 ext. 655

RIVERHEAD DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROJECT

In a press conference held this morning at the site of the former Swezey's Department Store in Downtown Riverhead, Supervisor, Yvette M. Aguiar together with the Riverhead Town Board and Director of Community Development (CDA), Dawn Thomas announced that following the receipt of \$800,000 in grant funding from NYS Empire State Development, the Town of Riverhead has signed a letter of intent to purchase 117 and 121 East Main Street along with the option to purchase 127 East Main Street for the purpose of creating a Town Square connecting Main Street to the Riverfront. "Today, we are moving Riverhead forward and entering a renaissance" stated Supervisor Aguiar.

In addition to the grant funding, the Town will utilize public private partnerships to leverage existing Town owned property to complete the project. Acquisition of these 3 properties was the necessary first step to put Downtown Riverhead on the path to true revitalization, something that is long overdue. This effort will benefit the entire community by providing public open spaces, entertainment and event spaces as well as retail and dining options, all while promoting tourism. As part of the Town's economic development team, the IDA has been working closely with the CDA on this project, particularly in the structure of the financing and logistics of development. The IDA is looking forward to seeing the development completed for the betterment of all Riverhead residents and businesses.

Supervisor Aguiar further stated that "our vision of connecting East Main Street to the Riverfront, will be presented at a public hearing at Town Hall scheduled for July 21, 2020 at 2:05 pm".



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Dawn Thomas, Director of Community Development, indicated the Revitalization and Town Square project will “create a public space for all Town residents including family friendly activities and outdoor activities.” Ms. Thomas said that through this project, “Riverhead is receiving a ‘heart transplant’. It’s a tremendous credit to this unified Town Board and its leadership to have finally committed to this vision. In fact, this Town Board has moved the ball further down the field in the last six months than in the last twenty years”.

A rendering of what is in store for the future Riverhead Town Square was displayed and attached below.

Town Board Advances Development of Riverhead Town Square



The proposed Town Square is expected to further Riverhead’s long-time redevelopment goals, while providing the public with recreational opportunities along the riverfront. (The above rendering is preliminary and subject to significantly change upon final design.)