



LGPC Transparency Initiative Update

February 2024

DELIVERABLES ACHIEVED SINCE 2021

1. **Website Updates:** The Commission has developed a strong relationship with the team at NYS IT to make sure that the Commission's website is updated very frequently to keep up with the seasonal nature of the agency. The website follows all NYS IT protocols, and the Commission uses IT staff as needed for more complicated updates. The website is continually scanned for any broken links, and those are corrected immediately. This work is done without specifically trained staff at the Commission, but the agency has designated one individual to learn the basics of the program to make these real-time changes as needed. Web traffic on the Commission's site has increased dramatically from days prior to the creation of the new site.
2. **FOIL Processing:** The Commission receives dozens of requests for information each year related to its programs, regulatory activities and projects. For simple, smaller FOIL requests (i.e. from realtors regarding approved dock configuration for a property), the Commission responds to these requests with the requested information generally the same day or the next day at the latest. Larger FOIL requests sometimes take a bit longer, but those requests are still processed fully within 3-5 working days. The Commission prides itself on openness and transparency in all of its many programs.
3. **New Annual Report:** The Commission, for the first time, has created a holistic agency annual report of activities and actions from the prior year. Traditionally, the Commission created individual program annual reports (Marine Patrol, Invasive Species, Regulatory Actions, etc) which keeps a formal, long-term record of annual activities. While these individual reports will continue, a summary holistic report is more public-friendly as it provides briefer narrative, charts and graphs that easily give the reviewer information about the agency's efforts and accomplishments. This 2023 LGPC Annual Report is hosted on the Commission's website homepage for easy finding and viewing, and the agency Director emailed a copy of the report to approximately 400 local and regional leaders, partners, businesses and interested parties. Response has been very positive from the public and the media. Given the positive feedback, the Commission plans to continue this effort every year forth. The report can be found at www.lgpc.ny.gov.

INITIATIVES TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN 2024

1. Publicly Accessible Database: The Commission receives dozens of requests each year for specific information on individual docks, marinas and properties around Lake George that the Commission maintains permits for. Responding to these requests individually takes considerable staff time to accommodate, and responses generally range from 5 minutes to five days depending on the complexity of the request. With the creation of the Commission's new regulatory database, several years in the making, this information is much more readily accessible to staff. Through a month's-long effort, the Commission's Analyst/GIS specialist created a public-facing, geographically based portal that allows the public to access specific information on permits the agency maintains. Information that is available through the new portal is all public information, nothing sensitive that would be withheld or confidential. This new system will greatly benefit the interested public (realtors, attorneys, engineers, municipal codes staff, etc) that regularly seek this information. It will also reduce the burden on LGPC analytical and administrative staff who process these requests. This significant new system is slated to go public following presentation to the LGPC Board of Commissioners at its February meeting.
2. LGPC Public Monthly Meetings – Live and WebEx: During Covid, the Commission operated remotely through Zoom online meetings platform. Since the pandemic has receded and the Commission meets once again live each month, the agency has gone back to traditional in-person meetings with video recording of those meetings posted the next day. There has been some public interest in having the Commission run its meetings live through an online platform again, while also meeting in public. Currently, the Commission utilizes its technology equipment for recording the meetings and presentations. In 2024, the Commission will evaluate the need for, and ability to, provide this remote live service for any interested public.