



“Waterloo Village with the Canal Society of New Jersey” Event Summary

Location: Stanhope, NJ

Date: Saturday, November 4, 2023; 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



About UpNext North Jersey

UpNext North Jersey (UpNext) is an advisory group that engages young North Jersey residents in a dialogue with the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA). The NJTPA seeks to better understand the values and needs of this demographic group regarding key transportation issues. The NJTPA provides UpNext members with unique opportunities to learn about and discuss timely topics related to regional planning and public policy, develop a network of peers who share similar interests, and engage with regional thought leaders and decision-makers.

The Public Outreach and Engagement Team (POET), part of the Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University, worked with the NJTPA to plan and conduct this event at Waterloo Village in Stanhope, NJ to share and promote the NJTPA's work on the Morris Canal Greenway.

Overview of the Waterloo Village with the Canal Society of New Jersey Event

On Saturday November 4, 2023, UpNext members arrived in Stanhope, New Jersey to meet with Joe Macasek and John Prieto of the Canal Society of New Jersey. Macasek and Prieto led the group down Waterloo Village Road, situated between the Morris Canal and the village. Along the way, Macasek and Prieto provided a historic interpretation, describing travel along the canal in the 19th century and its innovative system of locks and inclined

planes to lift and lower boats. Members were able to ask questions about a variety of topics, from engineering to stakeholder partnerships in maintaining Waterloo Village. In addition, members toured the Waterloo Village Museum and historic sawmill. There, they were shown artifacts, historic images, and a model of the canal. They were also shown a barn that houses more artifacts including part of a long-lost Morris Canal boat that is being preserved. Remarkably, the boat was salvaged from the foundation of renovated shore house in Monmouth County.

Planning and Promotion

To plan this event, NJTPA and VTC staff coordinated with the Canal Society on the logistics and program. After the event was planned and scheduled, VTC promoted the event by sharing the event invitation through email and social media. In addition, VTC and NJTPA staff created a one-page document with information about the Morris Canal's history and the Morris Canal Working Group's effort to complete the Greenway. This document was shared via email before the event. VTC also worked with members to coordinate carpooling.



Agenda

10:00 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. Arrive at Waterloo Village.

10:10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Introduction by Ted Ritter, NJTPA, followed by historic interpretation of Waterloo Village site by Canal Society members.

12:00 p.m. Wrap-up and informal socializing.

Attendance

Twelve UpNext members attended this in-person event.

Feedback

Members provided input through in-person comments and a post-event survey emailed following the event. Overall, members said the event was a positive experience. Members enjoyed the information shared by the Canal Society and appreciated the ability to ask questions about the history of the canal. In addition, members enjoyed the chance to meet each other, especially for the new members attending their first event. They shared their ideas to better connect the group, such as using new social media platforms and better communicating for carpooling.

In the post-event survey, members also provided input about improving their UpNext experience, including an opportunity to learn more about the Morris Canal Greenway. In response, Ted Ritter of NJTPA shared more information with members and provided an opportunity to connect UpNext members with the Morris Canal Working Group through a virtual meeting.