

# News-Review

CHARLEVOIX

## Group recommends city prohibit seawalls and ban private beaches to protect Lake Charlevoix



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The Petoskey News-Review

Published 5:04 a.m. ET March 17, 2023

CHARLEVOIX — The prohibition of sea walls and banning of new sandy beaches on private waterfront property were just two of many recommendations made to the city this week in a collaborative effort to assist in the prevention of shoreline erosion and facilitate the protection of Lake Charlevoix.

The Land Information Access Association, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and Lake Charlevoix Association presented their suggestions to the Charlevoix Planning Commission on Monday, March 13, which also included a proposal to redefine the Ordinary High Water Mark, to require greenbelts on all public waterfront properties and on newly developed or renovated properties and to install trash capture technologies in stormwater systems.

Recommendations were also made to develop stringent greenbelt parameters for waterfront properties that requires vegetation and trees, limits pathways and prohibits pesticides, fertilizers, grass and beach sand (particularly where sand was not originally).

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The development of county-wide zoning (such as occurs in Emmet County) was also suggested and communication with state and federal regulatory agencies by local communities regarding waterfront developments that violated local zoning requirements.

Charlevoix already requires all relevant permits be obtained prior to local waterfront development approval, which was also one of the recommendations.

"Any construction on the shoreline in Charlevoix has to come through the Planning Commission for approval and all permits have to be received before construction starts,"

commented Commissioner Sherm Chamberlain.

Commissioner RJ Waddell suggested the addition of dredging requirements and referenced the proposed boat house and marina that was met with much public resistance in Hayes Township.

**More:** Fight against Hayes Township waterfront development persists

The group is continuing to meet with the remaining local governments around Lake Charlevoix to gather information, reporting they are "halfway through" and will be wrapping up the meetings in April. From there, their next steps will be to develop a final report, individualized recommendations and provide assistance to communities as needed.

For information about the Lake Charlevoix Watershed committee meetings, other collaborative efforts and other upcoming dates visit [lakecharlevoixprotection.org](http://lakecharlevoixprotection.org).

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