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Erie Canalway News Release

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Matton Shipyard Preservation Project Receives Funding

(WATERFORD, NY) The Erie Canalway Heritage Fund, the nonprofit partner of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, is pleased to announce major funding from the New York State Regional Economic Development Council initiative (REDC) for the Matton Shipyard Preservation and Adaptive Reuse Initiative in Cohoes. Announced on December 13, the funding award of \$373,400 will be used to stabilize three original structures of the early 20th century ship building and repair facility, remediate environmental hazards, and stabilize 740-feet of Hudson River shoreline to prevent further erosion.

“We are pleased to continue the critical work of saving what remains of the historic shipyard and setting the stage for future public access,” said Bob Radliff, Executive Director of the Erie Canalway Heritage Fund. “This project honors the men and women who worked at Matton and preserves a significant part of our canal heritage.”

The Erie Canalway Heritage Fund, in partnership with NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the NYS Canal Corporation, has spearheaded planning efforts aimed at transforming the former shipyard, located within Peebles Island State Park. More than 100 people voiced their support and shared ideas for the site at public meetings held earlier this year.

The site links to several land and water-based trails and has the potential to become a hub for educational and recreational activities.

From 1916 to 1983, Matton workers built more than 340 tug boats, police boats, WWII submarine chasers, and other vessels. Eleven former employees and family members participated in an oral history project coordinated by the Erie Canalway Heritage Fund in 2017. Their accounts of life at the barge canal era shipyard will be key to interpreting the site for future users.

To learn more about the project and read the Matton Stories, visit: <https://eriecanalway.org/get-involved/matton>

ABOUT THE ERIE CANALWAY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor preserves our extraordinary canal heritage, promotes the Corridor as a world-class tourism destination, and fosters vibrant communities connected by more than 500 miles of waterway. It achieves its mission in partnership with the National Park Service, New York State agencies, non-profit organizations, local residents, and more than 200 communities across the full expanse of upstate New York.

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