

Stuyvesant Greenway Committee II
January 22, 2009
Stuyvesant Town Hall

Attending: Gale Bury, Brian Chittenden, Kent Keller, Tom Kilcer, Juanita Knott, Ron Knott, Kristina Kwacz, Mike Naegeli, Bill Vick
Absent: Peter Donahoe, Bob Leach, Charlene Leach

Chairman Ron Knott made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 16, 2008 meeting as presented. Kent Keller seconded the motion which passed with all in favor.

Ron reported that he and Charlene Leach attended the State Greenway meeting last week. A key discussion point was the Governor's proposal to consolidate the Greenway within the Department of State as a cost-cutting measure for the state for fiscal year 2009-10. Ron said that the general tone of the meeting was to mobilize a lobbying effort to support keeping the Greenway funded as a separate entity. He expressed personal concern that if the consolidation is implemented, the funds designated for the proposed boat launch boat ramp construction that are being held in the Greenway's account may fall victim to a budget sweep. Ron is planning to meet with our Assembly representative Tim Gordon to convey support for leaving the Greenway as is.

Kristina Kwacz passed out a summary of the November 20, 2008 public workshop, which was well attended by active participants. Ron thanked Kent Keller and Brian Chittenden for reaching out to members of the farming community to encourage their attendance. Also in the audience as observers were Ellen Jouret-Epstein, Land Protection Manager of the Columbia Land Conservancy (CLC) and Cari Watkins-Bates, Senior Land Project Manager of Scenic Hudson.

In considering the committee's next steps in the comprehensive plan review process, Kristina suggested that Ron contact Cari, since Scenic Hudson is providing support to communities who are doing comprehensive planning. Juanita suggested also contacting Ellen at CLC. Ron will try to meet with Scenic Hudson prior to the next Greenway Committee meeting. Mike volunteered to attend if his schedule permits.

In other news, Ron reported that the town is seeking grant funding for the water resources study. He suggested that the town contact CLC and Scenic Hudson for ideas for funding sources. Given the state's budget crisis, he stated that it is unlikely that state grant funds would be available for this purpose.

Discussion then ensued regarding the soils map. Tom Kilcer recommended that the committee obtain a larger soils map showing the various soil categories from the Columbia County Soil and Water district. He volunteered to coordinate sending the soils data to Cari at Scenic Hudson since they might also be able to assist with map production. A soil categories map with property lines delineated would be a critical tool in discussing possible future zoning changes.

Committee members agreed that it is important for the farming community and residential homeowners to understand how soil quality and water availability might impact possible zoning changes that would protect high-quality farmland. Juanita added that it is particularly important that the zoning and planning boards be educated and informed about this approach.

Mike Naegeli volunteered to scan the 1996 comprehensive plan so that the town could more easily revise the document once final changes are determined. Ron will first contact our 1996 consultants The Saratoga Associates to see if they have an electronic copy of the comprehensive plan available. Dan Sitler and Brian McMahon worked with the town of behalf of TSA at that time – Dan may still be with the firm.

The committee then worked on updating the draft Review of the Town of Stuyvesant 1996 Comprehensive Plan's Final Recommendations.

Kent Keller made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 pm, which was seconded by Tom Kilcer. The motion passed with all in favor. Next committee meeting: Thursday, February 26, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina Kwacz
Secretary