

Stuyvesant Trails Committee Meeting Minutes - January 12, 2010

In attendance: Sean Cummings, Kathy Schneider, Richard Anderson, Cal Burch, Michelle Richardson.

Sean discussed with Ed Scott the possibility of contacting allied health about land access for trail building, use and maintenance. Would like to ask Melissa and Ron about finding the lease to understand the terms.

Feasibility Study - Consultant Selection Process

Town of Kinderhook has contact with Jeffrey Olson of Alta Planning, who is a SUNY Albany professor with students who are willing to volunteer. Mike Kipp is checking into their procurement policy, and the requirement to get three bids, though they may choose to do this even if not required. They are hoping for a proposal from him in February or March. Our original target was April for a proposal.

Feasibility Study - Friends Group

A non-profit Friends Group organization would be able to fundraise, accept tax-deductible donations, including monetary and in-kind services. The Kinderhook Trails Committee discussed forming one under an umbrella group, but felt that administrative costs were too high.

Feasibility Study - Time: 0.5 hours spent discussing feasibility study grant x 5 members in attendance x \$15/hour = \$37.50.

River Access

Kathy reported on phone conversation with Betsy Blair of DEC Estuary program about public access at Newton Hook and floating dock like at Tivoli Bays. They put the floating docks in and out every season, they cost about \$50k to make, and Tivoli has the advantage of a monitoring station. Kathy told her we would like more than boat access (pedestrian access) at Ferry Rd. Ms. Blair expressed concerns about eagles north of Ice House Road. The long range plan at Ice House Rd. is to allow parking on the road and make the barn an interpretive center. This is probably our best shot at river access. Tivoli has a \$3M pedestrian bridge as a result of a land swap, possibly from CSX. Sean spoke with Tom Cordiere, Mayor of Tivoli. Might be worth contacting state Assemblyman Marc Molinaro, formerly the mayor of Tivoli.

Stuyvesant Landing south: There is no access to beach area without walking along CSX tracks. Would CSX let us have access if they were able to close the trail when they needed it for maintenance? Mr. Potter has access to his property through an easement with CSX.

DOT still wants the Ferry Road grade crossing closed and there are active discussions about that. Ice House Road is a private road -- but who owns it if not DEC? State or town would have to take over maintenance and make it a public road.

Sean talked to Ed Scott about getting sportsmen involved. Columbia County Sportsmen were signatories to the memo of understanding to get boat access at Newton Hook. Can we get them to make phone calls? Tom Cappadonna used to work for Kaz and interested in shoreline access. Sean will make contact with him.

DEC has a documented plan for swimming at Stuyvesant Landing We should leverage this in a proposal to DEC Region 4.