

### **Stuyvesant Trails Committee - March 9, 2010, 7PM**

**Present:** Sean Cummings, Ed Scott, Kathy Schneider, Mike Locker, Richard Anderson, Mike Naegeli, Michelle Richardson

**Guests:** Chris DeCintio, DEC Forest Ranger

February meeting minutes were approved.

Mike Naegeli will do a tax map search of properties along Kinderhook Creek near Stuyvesant Falls.

**NYS DEC/NYS DOT Meeting Summary.** This was not the meeting that we requested; this was a separate meeting. Each organization had 4-5 representatives. DOT has \$550k for a crossing signal at Ice House Road from the federal stimulus program. Question about whether Ice House road would remain private (DEC) or be assumed by the town to make it public. Leaving it private would minimize the widening needed.

DEC will put parking area beyond barn and a canoe/kayak launch near the ice house. At the meeting, Valerie Bertram emphasized need for pedestrian access and parking area. DEC is working on a sign for corner of Rte. 9J and Ice House Road. Also, a handicapped accessible trail to Ice House from parking area.

**Ferry Rd. closure:** still a possibility though they wouldn't take houses by eminent domain; would make offers on homes as they come up for sale over the years. Possible barricades at kiosk. They don't want to do the connector road due to protected wetlands. The town will contact schools and ask them not to take field trips there until crossing is resolved. Boat launch will probably consist of repairing the steps. No plans to close grade crossing. Will do some electrical upgrades at this crossing as part of the Icehouse Road work. Boat Launch project is still listed on the DOT website.

At the meeting, Sean brought up access to the point below Stuyvesant Landing via the strip of CSX track. Pete Innes said that CSX has said in the past that they will not allow pedestrian access along the tracks. Sean would like to follow up with Valerie about this in the next few weeks.

**Adopt a Natural Resource Program:** Chris DiCintio explained the program and the possibility of local residents doing trail maintenance on DEC land between Stuy Landing and Nutten Hook. Proposed area is across from Lang Rd. where the gazebo is. The program application asks for participants' social security numbers in order to cover liability and worker's comp. We would bring own tools and/or borrow Chris's tools. He will do chain saw work. We would have to form an ad hoc group to do this, since we can't represent the town and do work for the DEC. SUNY Albany project to see sheep impact on invasive species. They will be penned near the dune area. DEC just got another 160 acres from Office of General Services (OGS) south of Ferry Road, to Gay's point. Nancy Heaslip manages the area north of the inlet north of icehouse road as a wildlife management. South of the inlet is Estuary Program (Betsy Blair).

**Unused CSX line walk** We walked about 1.5 miles from trail station to where it crosses 9J past Gibbons Rd. This is mentioned in our comprehensive plan. Sean would like the town to request discussion with CSX about this. However, Valerie is concerned that pursuing this could threaten the Schoolhouse Rd bridge repair. He wrote a draft letter that he will forward to Val for review.

**Trail Feasibility Study, 10 minutes (8:05-8:15)** On February 22, the trails committee visited Jeff Olsen at SUNY Albany, who is likely to do the feasibility study. Ten minutes of discussion.

**Joint Meeting with Greenway Committee** Public forum on river access? Greenway Committee is winding down on comprehensive plan analysis. Invite Scenic Hudson & CLC. Sean will work on dates for litter cleanups.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30.