

Stuyvesant Greenway Committee II  
July 17, 2008  
Stuyvesant Town Hall

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

A correction was noted to the minutes of the March 27, 2008 Greenway Committee meeting: Page 3, Para 5, line 6: replace “deed” with “easement”. Ron Knott made a motion to accept the March minutes as corrected, which was seconded by Tom Kilcer. It passed with all in favor.

Bill Vick made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 22, 2008 meeting as presented. Kent Keller seconded with the motion, which passed unanimously.

Committee Chairman Knott provided updates on three projects/proposals of interest to the group:

- 1) The Town has submitted a grant application to the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation requesting \$100,000 for certain improvements to the Ken Hummel Park (formerly referred to as the Sharptown Road Park.) Proposed improvements include a split rail fence to define the property line from adjacent neighbors, grading of 3.5 acres, a kiosk, and signage. The grant was submitted on June 30, 2008.
- 2) At its May meeting, the Greenway Committee passed a motion recommending that the Town Board retain the New York Rural Water Association (NYWRA) to undertake a Groundwater Protection Study for Stuyvesant, a goal of the 1996 Comprehensive Plan. Ron presented this motion to the Town Board and reported that it was favorably received. Board members are currently looking at the town budget to see where the approximately \$5,000 cost of the study might be reflected. Ron also requested that Supervisor Valerie Bertram talk with Supervisor Betty Young of Livingston since that town is currently engaged in such a study. Kristina stated that the \$5,000 is a terrific investment which will yield critical information useful in both the short and long term for the town.
- 3) Ron shared a draft wind energy local law with the committee which he had presented at the July Town Board meeting. He asked committee members to consider whether a section on energy should be included in the comprehensive plan. Natural/Cultural Resources or Economic Development were mentioned as headings under which an energy component might fall. Town Attorney Tal Rapplyea is currently reviewing the draft law.

At the invitation of the Town Greenway Committee, Acting Executive Director of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Mark Castiglione arrived to address the group.

In his role as a senior planner with the Greenway, Mark explained that he has worked with a number of communities to help them prepare for public workshops during their comprehensive planning process. Now that he is Acting Executive Director, his time for fieldwork is very limited and he is unfortunately not available to work with Stuyvesant in that capacity at present.

However, he presented several resources to the group, including “A Community Trail Handbook for Landowners,” “A Guide to Planning Trails in NYS,” as well as the “Greenway Guides.” He added that small grants are available from the Greenway every year (maximum \$10,000) for trail development.

Mark then acknowledged the committee’s work identifying which goals of the 1996 Comprehensive Plan have been accomplished and which have not been addressed. (Ron had provided him with the draft “Review of the Town of Stuyvesant 1996 Comprehensive Plan’s Final Recommendations” prior to the meeting.) Mark suggested a three-step process in completing revisions to the 1996 Comprehensive Plan:

- 1) Review 1996 Plan
- 2) Obtain public input
- 3) Establish structured subcommittees to revise appropriate sections of the plan

He added that it is critical to set a date for completion of the plan’s revision so that meetings can be scheduled with the committee working toward that goal.

He underscored the importance of a strong outreach effort to obtain input from residents regarding the various subject areas of the comprehensive plan. Explaining that a survey is a snapshot of a community at a particular time, he added that it is vital to determine what the priorities of the community are today, with an eye toward the next 10 – 20 years. Public workshops are an important vehicle to obtain this information.

Ron informed Mark that the committee has hosted one public information meeting to date which focused on opportunities for outdoor recreation in the town.

Mark suggested that subsequent public workshops be divided by subject. Following discussion, the committee agreed on three meetings focusing on:

- 1) Waterfront/Natural & Cultural Resources: October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008 tentative date  
9:00 a.m. continental breakfast, 10:00 - 12:00 workshop
- 2) Agriculture/Economic Development, date TBD
- 3) Overview/Wrap-up, date TBD

Each session could begin with general questions which explore what residents like best about the town, what could be improved, and what they think Stuyvesant should look like in 10 – 20 years. Maps from the 1996 plan indicating various scenarios should be displayed, and Mark said the Greenway can produce a map that shows Stuyvesant in context with other communities.

The old goals of each subject area may be presented and new ones identified. A ranking process should then be employed where each resident in attendance selects their top five goals for the town.

Mark explained that, from an economic perspective, a comprehensive plan should analyze how much it costs to run a town (i.e. general expenses such as road maintenance as well as special projects) and how residents are going to pay for it (i.e. taxes, grants, donations). He encouraged

the committee to keep a regional mindset, since people often commute to their jobs a distance from their homes and tend to take care of errands and other tasks on the way to or from work. This regionalization directly impacts the type of businesses and services that a community can realistically sustain. He also highly recommended that the town implement the groundwater resources study.

Discussion turned to Stuyvesant's waterfront and the lack of movement by state agencies on the proposed boat launch at Stuyvesant Landing. (Years ago, Nutten Hook had been designated as the site for a boat launch to be funded by an \$8.5 million appropriation by then-Governor Pataki. Subsequently, state agencies designated Stuyvesant Landing as a more appropriate site for the project.) Charlene Leach explained that \$300,000 of GE mitigation funds had been earmarked for the boat ramp at Nutten Hook, which should still be under the purview of the Greenway. Mark was unaware of these funds but promised to check the Greenway's budget to confirm whether they are still available.

With regard to the project's stagnation, Mark stated that to achieve success in this or any other project involving the state, town officials must continually reach out to state agencies. Getting all stakeholders in one room is particularly effective, and the Greenway can assist with coordinating such a meeting should the Town Board request one. It is important to have staff from the state agencies, Senate and Assembly representatives, town officials, and the Greenway at the table, and town officials should be tenacious about furthering the project.

He asked whether town officials have reached out to the Governor's regional representative for assistance. Ron stated that they did a few years ago, but Mark underscored that continual contact is vital. He will provide Ron with the name of our regional representative so town officials may follow up.

Also, Mark recommended that the town consider creating a Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP). Funding is provided by the Department of State, and it would be an excellent tool when advocating for river access and the proposed boat launch.

Another resource is Scenic Hudson's GIS analysis of Scenic Areas of Statewide Significance (SASS). This report could be cited in our comprehensive plan, since it prioritizes land that has been highly ranked in terms of scenic importance.

Committee members thanked Mark for his input. At the next meeting, survey questions are to be discussed and formulated for the workshops.

Tom Kilcer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m. Kent Keller seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor. Next meeting: August 21, 2008 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina Kwacz  
Secretary