

Green Committee  
11-15-11  
5:30 pm  
Watts DePeyster Hall

Attendees: Joel Griffith (chairman) •Kathy O'connor •David Nelson •Ben Fundis  
•Bonnie Corrado •Julia DeFabo •Lila Weinberg

Joel called the meeting to order at 5:32

Joel introduced the new attendees to the committee and indicated that we are still trying to establish our focus going forward, and hoping to gain a few more members. He briefed them on the ideas of a community garden, the state grant for compost bins, and the idea of the bike path through the Tivoli bays.

Joel, on the topic of a bike path, mentioned that it came up in the last village meeting in a comment by a Tivoli resident, Joel indicated that the mayor was receptive. Micky Strewinski, who is on the committee for greenways and trails in red hook could be a good resource for developing a proposal, David said that he would try to contact her. Joel said that he would contact the village engineer, Ron Evangelista.

The minutes of the last meeting were unanimously approved.

Lila introduced herself, how she heard about the committee from Kathy. She indicated that it seems that the committee has made a good start, admiring the ideas of the bike path and the garden.

Julia introduced, as a Bard student, she said that she wanted to be involved with the committee to "break the bard community bubble that exists".

Joel still indicated that a smaller simpler project would be good for the committee to pursue, beyond the bike path and the garden, so that we might show some accomplishments soon.

Kathy mentioned Lyla's enthusiasm for energy saving and invited her to share what she has done at her house. She spoke of being a gardener for 50 years and would be interested in helping out with any related project. Lyla mentioned her take on the Red Hook Garden, that it doesn't look well tended and might be bigger than they need. Joel mentioned his concern that we don't want a project that exceeds the community's interest level, to be careful not to give too much work to just a few dedicated people.

David said that it would be useful to poll the residents in order to gage the interest level before proceeding any further. Joel mentioned that we would be able to send out a note in every water bill in town, the next being in December,

telling residents to get in touch with the Green Committee about their interest in such a project.

Julia shared a story of working at a garden in Chicago. There, businesses had sponsored individual plots to benefit the immigrant population the garden served. The group discussed how a garden should be modeled, organized by individual plots all together in a fully communal space. Lyla thought that it would be best for people to feel that they had their own individual plot.

The group discussed homework for the month ahead. Joel will talk to the clerk about the letter in the water bill and to talk to Paul Marienthal. David will try to contact Micky, and coordinate with the Village Engineer. Kathy will talk to Henry Christopher about the possibilities of design for a garden. Bonnie will contact Cornell Cooperative extension for relevant information. Joel mentioned organizing the small details, i.e. getting the town involved in tilling the soil at the proper time of year.

Joel closed the meeting at 6:25.