

Waterfront Committee Meeting
February 11, 2010 at 4:30 pm
DRAFT Minutes

Attendees:

Mark Bennett
Martin Clarke
Harry Colgan
Thomas Cordier, Mayor
Bonnie Corrado, Co-Chair
Susan Ezrati, Trustee
Phyllis Palmer
Kathy Rebillot

Absent:

Jerome Crandall
Barbara Eichen
Joel Griffith

Bonnie Corrado called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm. Harry Colgan moved approval of the minutes of the January 14, 2010 minutes, Kathy Rebillot seconded the motion. The committee voted to approve the draft minutes unanimously.

The committee reviewed the corrected draft of the Mission Statement and agreed that it should be posted on the Village website.

A brief discussion of the visits to the Waterfront followed. It was agreed that these should be postponed until the river thawed and it would be possible to see the condition of the shoreline, etc.

A committee member noted that CSX had traveled along the tracks from Poughkeepsie north and had taken down trees along the tracks with a large tree cutter. The trees had been cut off several feet above ground level.

Discussion of the pros and cons of waterfront visits to other waterfront sites was discussed. It was noted that sites with little land on either side of the tracks were particularly of interest since the proportionality of the pedestrian walkway to the site is of concern.

The mayor was asked for his report on developments related to the Waterfront. Mayor Cordier reported on the most recent conference call with CSX at which final issues related to closing on the property took place. One of the final issues that the Village has agreed to is a “reversion” clause that insures that CSX must approve the final engineering design prior to any construction being undertaken by the Village. If the Village does not establish an engineering design that meets the CSX requirements, and, if the Village attempts to undertake construction without CSX’s approval, the parcel reverts to CSX. The mayor noted that the Village does not intend to initiate any construction until the design is approved by all parties and funds to complete the construction have been obtained. He believes that the last impediments to closing have been addressed and noted that the Village Board would be voting on additional conditions in the contract at their meeting on Wednesday, February 17, 2010. Both CSX and the Village are eager to close so that the Village will be eligible to receive grants for further development.

Bonnie moved the meeting on to new business, namely the “next steps” to be taken by the Committee. Discussion followed on:

- Ways to get ideas from the public
- Joel’s architect as a possible contact
- Contacting engineering schools for their ideas and participation.

It was proposed that a solicitation for a “brainstorming” session go out in the next water bill (March). A subcommittee comprised of Mark Bennett and Phyllis Palmer volunteered to organize and schedule the session. They agreed that a “specification” sheet should be created that described the constraints on the project and synthesized the design requirements. An exhibition of ideas generated by Village residents would be scheduled for the April-May time zone. The specifications would include such items as the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the location of the Air Easement and the height requirements for the overpass.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm