

TIVOLI WATERFRONT COMMITTEE
Meeting – November 12, 2009
Village Hall
DRAFT MINUTES

Attendees:

Susan Ezrati, Village Trustee
Susan Lyon Troy, Crawford and Associates
Harry Colgan
Joel Griffith
Kathy Rebillot
Barbara Eichin
Martin Clarke
Tom Cordier, Village Mayor

Absent:

Mark Bennett
Phyllis Palmer
Bonnie Corrado

The meeting began at 4 :40 pm.

The meeting began informally with a discussion of the Waterfront bulkhead, the need for a grant writer dedicated to the project, and the notation that the DEC should be invited to see the Waterfront. Barbara Eichin said that she and her husband, Jeff Scales, had spoken with Willie Janeway, Regional Director for Region 3 (Hudson Valley et al) of the DEC. She suggested that he come to meet with the Committee after he has seen the waterfront.

The committee then focused on the issue of establishing a Chair. Suggested candidates included: Bonnie Corrado, Joel Griffith and Mark Bennett. Joel noted that he would serve while he was in Tivoli, but noted that he would be away for several months beginning in February. The committee asked Joel to serve until he departed.

Susan Ezrati volunteered to assist the Chair with minutes of the meeting, notices of meetings and general committee correspondence. A discussion of the need for an independent chair and recordkeeper followed.

Joel accepted the chairmanship of the Committee. Committee agreed that Susan would act as recording secretary for the time being.

Discussion of informational materials dedicated to informing the Village about Waterfront developments followed. Consideration was given to trimming down the Q&A for the waterbill. It was noted that the Q&A was posted on the Village website, on the Town Crier bulletin board, on the Library bulletin board and was available in the Village office. It was determined that reference to the Q&A in the materials that went out would be sufficient. Discussion followed concerning other means of soliciting written comments from the public. Such a internet location exists, but the Committee lacked details.

The committee proceeded to outline a “History of the Waterfront” to be sent out in the December Water bill. Items to be noted included:

- Village does not own land on either side of the RR at the waterfront (except Diana Street).
- Efforts to purchase the land started in 1991 when the Village procured a grant to do a feasibility study. The LWRP (Local Waterfront Revitalization Project) was written shortly thereafter and posits that the Village intends to develop the Waterfront.
- Warren Reese of Scenic Hudson provided support.
- The Village negotiated with four different executives of CSX (ConRail before CSX) and talks stalled because Executives left, died or retired.
- Began negotiations for existing Purchase & Sale agreement in December 2007, final agreement signed in Spring 2009, when a deposit of \$4000 was paid. Still not completed.
- Closing is pending.
- Scenic Hudson offered to provide the purchase amount as early as 2008.
- Sale by Railroad is contingent on agreement to replace at grade crossing with a pedestrian overpass.

Cannot move forward with any design plans until land is purchased.
 Political environment is positive. Congressman Hinchey is pushing to establish the Hudson River as a Federal Park.

Discussion followed concerning the role of:

Scenic Hudson – supportive of local access to the waterfront with minimal change to existing landscape.

Department of State – DOS – Has been exceptionally supportive with funds as well as help in navigating the many jurisdictions involved.

Department of Transportation – DOT – aligned with the project. Eager to close at grade crossings. Have proposed Tivoli WaterFront for \$2.7 million in funding.

Discussion of considerations that will limit design: Americans for Disability Act requirements. Railroad specifications with respect to the overpass.

Next meeting date is the second Thursday of December (December 10, 2009) at 4:30 pm in the Village Hall. The materials for the Water Bill will be agreed to by e-mail and phone and sent out on December 1, 2009.