

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE HUDSON RIVER GREENWAY
JUNE 1ST, 2015

Attendees:

Committee: Bob Bender, Phil Friedman, Laura Spalter

Other CB8 Members: Tony Creaney, Rosemary Ginty, Marvin Goodman, Michael Heller, David Kornbluh, Dan Padernacht, Herb Young

Community: Cliff Stanton, Tracy Shelton, KRVC; Betty Klein; Paula Luria Caplan; Jack Lehnert, FHRG; Jodie Colon; I-C L-Engel, BCEQ; David Bush; David Gellman; Sura Jeselsohn, Friends of Spuyten Duyvil; Rob Heisler; Rowan Walsh; Cristina Lang, Sen. Klein's office; Suzanne Corber; Jack Kozlowski, Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct; Nortrud Wolf Spero, YGAC; Kerry Purtrin (?); Linda Hirlehey; Robert Fass; Judy Gurland; Sandy Shalleck, Riverdale Nature Preservancy; Laura Liebman; Daniel Liebman; Jon ?, Hebrew Home; John Benfatti; Ann Creaney; Gary Klingsberg; Robert Spalter; Andrew Sandler, Councilman Cohen's office

Agenda:

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:35 pm. The minutes of the April meeting were unanimously approved.

Discussion of the Committee's Final Report for This Year

The final report approved by the three committee members was distributed to attendees at the meeting and then highlights of the report were read. Committee members emphasized the outreach that has been done in the past year to various agencies, elected officials, stakeholders along the Greenway route and Metro-North railroad, all of which is described in the report. Also emphasized were the next steps in the Greenway process as identified by the committee members.

The floor was then opened to discussion of the report. A number of questions were asked by attendees. Among them:

Have cycling clubs been contacted by the committee? *Some of the regular attendees at the meetings belong to cycling clubs.*

What are riparian rights, which are mentioned in the report? *They are rights to use of water adjacent to the property owned by a landowner.*

What is the scope of the study that Metro-North has proposed to conduct? *It is intended to stabilize the shoreline of the Hudson River and also identify feasible routes for the Hudson River Greenway.*

Other topics included ownership of the skeleton bridge over the Metro-North tracks (Ms. Betty Klein, who was in attendance, owns it) and the remnant bridge farther north (the Hebrew Home, whose representative also attended, owns that bridge).

With the questions segueing into a more general discussion, the floor was opened to further discussion of the Greenway but with an emphasis on future activity.

Open Discussion

In response to questions about whether CB8 would be involved in in the proposed MNR Scope of Work study, committee members confirmed that they intend to stay in touch with MNR and monitor the study.

A suggestion was made to include a comfort station somewhere along the Greenway route.

There was discussion of private property ownership west of the MNR tracks but investigation of public documents reveals no private property owners. Committee members acknowledge that this issue, like the issue of riparian rights, will need careful examination once a plausible route has been identified.

It was asked whether the Spuyten Duyvil triangle area might offer a future access point to the Greenway. Although a potential access point, this location will require careful investigation because there are significant complications here. There could even be a MNR-Amtrak connection at this location at some future time.

The proposed MNR Scope of Work study that awaits funding would be an investigation that would help to identify future engineering work to implement the Greenway. Once the study is completed, engineering work to design the Greenway would come next.

There was some discussion of the entity that would operate the Greenway. KRVC/Friends of the Hudson River Greenway proposed an operating authority in earlier communications, but Cliff Stanton and Tracy Shelton acknowledged that these proposals were preliminary and based on other models. Bob Bender suggested a preference for the State Department of Parks as the operational authority. In any case the authority that will operate the Greenway will have to be designated and approved by the legislature of the State of New York. Our local elected officials Sen. Klein and Assemblyman Dinowitz will play key roles in that process.

Committee members explained that the committee's authority expires at the end of the month and will be reviewed at the June CB8 board meeting.

Several members of the audience thanked the committee for its work and urged that its status be renewed by the community board.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 pm.

Bob Bender, Chair
Special Committee of the
Hudson River Greenway