

Report of the Special Committee on the Hudson River Greenway, 2015-2016

The committee met in April and May 2016, primarily to discuss the Greenway study that is being done under the auspices of the Metro-North Railroad with funding provided by Sen. Jeff Klein.

At the May meeting, four representatives from Metro-North met with the community to discuss the scope of the planned study and to answer questions raised by the public. The study is expected to commence this summer and conclude in June 2017. The study area encompasses the Bronx from Spuyten Duyvil into Yonkers at the Ludlow St. bridge. This study will be the basis for more detailed engineering studies and will be shared by the committee with various regulatory agencies as well as with government agencies that might provide funding for the Greenway. Metro-North intends to report back to the community on interim stages of the study, and the committee will hold public meetings when it receives this information from Metro-North.

A full report on the May meeting was provided to board members in the committee's minutes of this meeting.

In addition to these meetings, committee members engaged in other activities intended to help bring the Greenway to fruition. Bob Bender met with a representative of the Bronx River Alliance who provided valuable guidance on fundraising. Based on her advice, the committee reached out to a grant writer recommended by the Bronx River Alliance, who has offered additional advice. The committee hopes to be able to work with a grant writer in the coming year to begin the process of obtaining grants to enable construction of the Greenway.

Committee members Laura Spalter and Bob Bender, along with board chair Dan Padernacht and vice chair Rosemary Ginty, also met with the Director of Open Space and Waterfront Planning for the Department of City Planning to discuss the Greenway and to learn about city regulations that might affect the Greenway. (A report on this meeting circulated with the minutes of the committee's May meeting.)

In the coming year the committee intends to continue contacting relevant agencies and organizations. For example, the committee is beginning to reach out to the appropriate authorities in Yonkers, with the goal of using a regional approach to raise funds and to obtain required permits for construction of the Greenway. The committee also hopes to enlist the support and assistance of non-profit groups that it is in the process of identifying.

In accordance with the board's 2014 Greenway Resolution, the committee has made important progress in this past year. We urge board members to renew the committee's status for the coming year.

Respectfully submitted by Bob Bender and Laura Spalter on behalf of the committee.