

**VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING
SPECIAL BOARD for a
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN/LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION
PLAN**

**Minutes
Meeting of January 31, 2013
At Village Hall, 85 Main Street**

Present: Mike Armstrong, Chair; Anne Impellizzeri, Vice-Chair; Members: Karen Doyle, Marie Early, Cathryn Fadde, Stephanie Hawkins

Absent: Anthony Phillips, Michael Reisman, Dick Weissbrod

Also Attending: Michele Greig, GreenPlan

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm.

Remarks of Chair

Mike Armstrong explained the Special Board's mission and history to the guests from Wappingers. He thanked the SB members who helped out at the "Hurricanes and High Water" workshop on Jan. 19, and thanked Cathryn Fadde for providing the coffee. Armstrong read into the record a letter to the editor of the PCNR which the PCNR chose not to print. The letter is attached to these minutes (Attachment 1); the letter corrected statements made in the PCNR concerning statements about and quotes from the Jan. 19 workshop. Armstrong announced that the SB had received a \$6,000 Greenway grant for assistance in completing the LWRP and including sea level rise and climate change; the Greenway press release is also attached to these minutes (Attachment 2). A round of applause was given to Anne Impellizzeri for her work in writing the grant. Armstrong further said that the formal issuance of the Greenway grant will require a Memo of Understanding between the Village and the Greenway. The Greenway grant requires matching funds from the Village, so Armstrong requested SB members to keep their timesheets current; volunteer hours can be used to match the funds of the grant.

Minutes, Jan. 10 and Jan. 17, 2013

Impellizzeri made a motion to accept the Jan. 10 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Karen Doyle and approved (Stephanie Hawkins abstained since she was unable to attend the Jan. 10 meeting). The Jan. 17 minutes were deferred to the next meeting.

Report of Planning Board Liaison

Dick Weissbrod was ill and unable to attend the meeting, so the Planning Board report was deferred to the next meeting.

Report of HDRB Liaison

Marie Early reported that the HDRB held a workshop and discussed window repair/replacement with S. Gazzola, and construction of a new house on Kemble Avenue with the architect, Juhee Lee-Hartford.

Discussion on Drafted Policies

Prior to discussion on the Policies themselves, there was discussion about obtaining input from the various boards/people in the Village (Planning, HDRB, Water Department, etc.) and individuals. The questions were when should this be done and how should it be done. Michele suggested sending the State Policies along with the drafted Policies so that reviewers will have the background of each Policy. It was agreed that this process would be followed once the drafted policies had had a preliminary review from the SB.

Michele Greig, GreenPlan, noted that there is a question on the definition of “waterfront” and “LWRA”. She will use “LWRA” or “Village” when the topic is the whole Village, and “waterfront” when referring to just the immediate riverfront, and she will incorporate this clarification into the introductory section. Also, Michele noted that there is still inconsistent use of “should”/”must” and that she is still generally making changes to avoid the use of “should” or ”must”. And she also noted that there are some concepts which she has not yet incorporated (e.g., the 2030 Challenge, sea level rise). So, the Policies are still a bit of a work in progress.

Draft Policies 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8 were discussed with Michele Greig. Clarifications were provided by Michele, changes were recommended. Michele will consult with Jaime Ethon on some of the points that were raised. There was not sufficient time to review/discuss Policies 9, 10, 11, 13; these were deferred to the next meeting.

Public Comment

The guests (a student and teacher from the town of Wappingers Falls) remarked that they appreciated the opportunity to observe the Special Board meeting.

Adjournment

Early made a motion to adjourn. This was seconded by Cathryn Fadde and unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Early, Secretary

Signed,

Mike Armstrong

Attachment 1

Letter to Douglas Cunningham, Editor of the Putnam County News & Recorder

January 28, 2013

Hurricanes and High Water

While I appreciate the PCN&R's coverage of the Special Board's workshop on the impact of climate change on the Village, some clarifications are in order.

First, the predictions that were ably presented by Kristin Marcell, contrary to your headline, do not point to the Hudson River "swamping" the Village. Kristin showed that some low-lying areas in the Village, mostly west of the railroad tracks, were likely to see more frequent inundations, and possibly be flooded. Most of the Village – including perhaps 95% of all homes – is high enough to avoid inundation, as is the wastewater treatment plant.

The maps of Cold Spring that were used by participants to identify issues of concern were not based on FEMA data, but generously provided by Scenic Hudson. Stonybrook University provided the water level information, and the elevation data was provided by the NYS DEC. They used a topographic mapping technique called LIDAR to show Village ground elevations with great precision, and colored areas that are predicted to be inundated under various climate change scenarios. While I said "The adoption of the LWRP will allow the Village to have authority to the middle of the Hudson River," I did not say that "...the LWRP will provide for the autonomy of our boards to develop codes to preserve our shoreline." Board autonomy is not the issue. My exact words were "...That authority includes the ability to adopt local laws that regulate the construction, size and location of wharves, docks, moorings, and the like as well as the use of surface waters and underwater lands." It is vital that people understand the importance and nature of the Village's LWRP authority (once the LWRP is adopted), since it could be key in implementing solutions to the challenges of climate change.

Finally, I did not say, "In short-term planning, we have two water pumps that need to be replaced at the Cold Spring Sewer Plant that is directly in the flood plain area." I referred in my remarks to "...two waste water pump stations that are located in the flood zone..." ; they are not in the wastewater treatment plant. I did not speak about

replacing the pumps. These pumps – one located on Market Street at the southeast corner of the Chapel Restoration, and the second on West Street near the intersection with New Street, pump gravity-fed wastewater from parts of the Village back up to the treatment plant on Fair Street. That plant is above the flood plain, and although it has some important issues (the electrical equipment is in the cellar), it is not expected to flood. The statement by Greg Phillips in the article provides a helpful update on the situation with the West Street pump station.

I thought that the participants in the Workshop came up with some inspired suggestions and insights into the issues presented in Hurricanes and High Water, and I thank them, my colleagues on the Special Board, and Kristin Marcell of the DEC for all that they contributed.

Sincerely,

Michael Armstrong, Chair, Special Board for a Comprehensive Plan/LWRP

Attachment 2

Cold Spring Wins \$6,000 Greenway Grant for LWRP

Funding to be used for Last Lap of 7-year Project

Cold Spring has won a \$6,000 matching grant from the Greenway to help complete its Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP), which it began work on in 2006. The money will be used strengthen the LWRP section on implementation with proposed changes in the Village Code and increase the focus on climate change and sea level rise.

Anne Impellizzeri, vice chair of the Special Board, spearheaded the effort to obtain the additional funds, which were approved by the Greenway Board at their meeting in Hyde Park on Friday, January 25. Impellizzeri declared, “We’re in the home stretch of this seven year project. We want to finish this year and do it right, and this money allows us to do just that.”

The Village Board appointed an all-volunteer Special Board in 2006 to draft a Comprehensive Plan and a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. The Greenway provided a \$7,500 initial matching grant to launch the project, which carried the effort until cash began to flow in August 2010 from a \$50,000 matching grant from the State. The Village itself fronted some funding that year, which was subsequently reimbursed.

The Special Board completed its work on a Comprehensive Plan in December 2010, and the Plan was then amended and adopted by the Village in January 2012. The Special Board determined that its funding fell short of what was needed for a full LWRP, so opted, with the support of the State, to complete an interim study, called the Local Waterfront Revitalization Strategy (LWRS), in November of 2011. The Village Board and the State of New York accepted the Strategy within just a few weeks. Later, \$27,000 in additional State funding was granted to complete the full Program.

The Special Board, which has worked with GreenPlan, a consulting firm, since December 2009, has been drafting the sections of the LWRP for more than a year, and hopes to finish the work by summer. Through a provision in the Program called a Harbor Management Plan, the Village will gain authority to the middle of the Hudson River. The LWRP will spell out 13 Coastal policies and outline several projects, as well as the implementation steps the Village intends to take, which will include proposed changes in the Village Code. Because the LWRP law originated with the Federal Coastal Management law of the 1970s, and must first pass muster by dozens of Federal, State, and County agencies, the Village's new LWRP will have standing at all levels of government.

The LWRP will give the Village leverage in obtaining grant money for projects. A notable success in the Hudson Valley, Dobbs Ferry obtained \$6 million in private donations and government grant funding for waterfront improvements after adopting its LWRP in 2006. Projects the Special Board has proposed include an Overlook Park on a portion of the Village Garage site, a RiverWalk, and basic improvements at Dockside, starting with shoreline stabilization.