

**VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING PLANNING BOARD
85 MAIN STRET, COLD SPRING, NEW YORK 10516
Public Hearing for Scenic Hudson Foundry Preserve**

August 9, 2011

Present: Chairman: Joseph Barbaro; **Members:** Joseph Immorlica, Arne Saari, Richard Weissbrod and Planning Board consultant Rob Cameron; Putnam Engineering

Member absent: Placito Sgro

Present for Scenic Hudson: Rita Shaheen; Director of Parks, Kim Mathews; Mathews Nielsen Landscape Architects, Darlene Montgomery Mathews Nielsen; Gregory Liberman, GHD Consulting Engineers

The meeting opened at 7:31 P.M.

Rita Shaheen presented the Scenic Hudson West Point Foundry Preserve project Explained how Scenic Hudson preserves property and creates parks. Ms. Shaheen noted Scenic Hudson purchased the site 15 years ago and Scenic Hudson has been studying the site ever since. The plan is to enhance and create the preserve.

Kim Mathews acknowledged other people involved in the project. The site is 87 acres which will be an interpretive preserve. The site will have the following items: Boring Mill, Gun Platform composting toilet ADA access, gabion box signs. The ADA access will be from the train path to the center of the site. Another pedestrian path will be off Chestnut St. to what was formally known as the Haul Rd. The site will have 15 benches and 12 picnic tables. The office building will not be used or have any further work done to it. Two composting toilets will be close to the parking lot there will be a bioswalen to catch water from parking lot.

Darlene Montgomery continued by explaining the gateway signs and noted the gabion boxes will hold some of the rubble from the site where the sign will be. The siding of the composting toilets will be board and baton. There will be selective removal (clearing) on the marsh path of greenery. The gun platform will be an interpretive replica and Ms. Montgomery reviewed the stabilizing process.

J. Barbaro thanked Mindy Krazmien for the use of the museum.

R. Weissbrod asked the following questions:

- If the park was going to be open all year. Kim Mathews answered yes.
- Are the toilets were going to be locked Rita Shaheen answered yes.

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- If a maintenance plan was in effect. Rita Shaheen answered a plan has been presented to the Planning Board.

Mrs. Anne impellizzeri, 15 High St. - this is an exciting time for an exiting project both, as a member of the scenic Hudson Board and as a member of the community. It is quite a remarkable site and brilliantly designed, informative but not grand. They did quite a job of minimizing negative impact along with the direct personal heritage of so many people in the village. It will also attract a modest number of visitors. Just think we are extremely fortunate to have them on this project with there sensitivity.

Ms. Kathy Hamel, 22 Oak Rd. Garrison – membership of public Policy Coordinator for Hudson highland Land Trust spoke on behalf of Andrew Chmar executive director Land Trust and read a letter from Andrew Chmar dated August 9,2011 regarding Hudson Highlands Land Trust's support for the West Point Foundry Preserve proposed improvement plan.

Mr. Jonathan Kruk, 24 Mountain view Dr. – explained a recent walk he took on the Scenic Hudson property noting 150 people were on the walk as well asking questions about the site and location of the cannon. The people were enchanted but not overwhelm. Glad Scenic Hudson took the time and care in developing the site. He noted he was confident that Scenic Hudson will not make the site overwhelming by working with the community and glad to see the project moving forward.

Mr. Aaron Kotzensky, 14 Angela ct. Beacon – Mr. Kotzensky noted he was a Michigan Tech graduate. Mr. Kotzensky noted that other than supporting the plan, West Point Foundry was not the only player of the game and noted that one other that comes to mind is the Fort Pit Foundry which is no longer in existence. And noted the guns of monitor were made at the foundry and there is an exhibit at the Mariners Museum in Westport Ct. and noted when you look at the items which are marked "made in Cold Spring".

Mr. Peter Henderson, 11 Marion Ave. - loves to go to West Point Foundry Park with his family. He approves the impact of preserving the natural site. It's a great site was surprised many people from the village had never been there and he hopes the publicity of the project will get local people to the area.

Mr. Henderson thanked the Planning Board for their work and the issues they raised to help the project get to this point.

Mr. Jan Thacher, 62 Chestnut St. – phenomenal site and history of our village and linked to this grassy valley experience with Scenic Hudson is the Foundry Dock Park which is a well functioning access to the river and hoping this will be too. Mr. Thacher noted a few community members had a meeting with Rita Shaheen and he asked if those comments were taken into account. **J. Barbaro** responded they have been talking about that for a while. Kim Mathews noted that at Chestnut St. there will be a provision for a bus pull up which could hold two parked buses. A sidewalk is also available at that location. Rita Shaheen noted school busses will drop off

students and go to Boscobel to park until they are ready to reload passengers. No parking signs posed on Chestnut St.

Ms. Kendall Helbock, Putnam County Historical Society - noted currently there is no real place for buses to drop kids off and also noted no sidewalks are currently present and kids have to be corralled while loading and unloading busses.

Mr. Jan Thacher, 62 Chestnut St. - noted a bench should be placed at the top of Chestnut street. Kim Mathews noted there will be two benches at the top of Chestnut Street.

Mr. Leigh Seipper, 1653 Route 9D – noted he visited the site about 30 years ago. Mr. Seipper noted he was the Director of Scenic Hudson and followed the project for 6 years and noted that it has been magically blended with nature. This is quite an accomplishment for Cold Spring.

Susan Patterson, 1653 Route 9D - fully supports the work as a resident and neighbor.

Virginia Kasinki, Director of Community-Based Programs, Glynwood Inc. – worked closely with countryside exchange and noted people from Whales and Germany noted that Scenic Hudson was quite a site and noted the real attention the site was given by the community and Scenic Hudson. Ms. Kasinki noted Rita deserves a lot of credit.

Mindy Krazmien, Putnam County Historical Society - voiced personal support for the project and noted this community is lucky to have Scenic Hudson. They have worked very closely with the Foundry Museum. Feels the site is an incredible addition to this community and there is what Kim Mathews noted “mystery and inspiring”. Happy with the way the design unfolded. Scenic Hudson Foundry Preserve has international significance and is an important site.

Ms. Stacy Matson Zuvic, State office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation – noted she has been working with Scenic Hudson. The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation awarded 2 grants to scenic Hudson. The project has been reviewed with national recognized standards and they are in the final stage of the review and were present to support the project as well.

Mr. James Hartford, 5 Furnace St - instigator of bringing about the 200th anniversary of the foundry which is coming up soon. And asked if the rules have been discussed in public and wonder about the impact of the grading for animals Mr. Hartford asked if there was any consideration for deer, coyotes and dogs walking on the grading. **J. Barbaro** noted they will get to that.

Ms. Annie Chestnut, Putnam County News and Recorder - asked how long it will take to complete the project once the work starts. Kim Mathews answered it is a 12 month completion process and the closing schedule will coordinate with the beginning of the project.

Maria Ricapito, 53 Parrott St. - asked why there is a silhouette of the Parrott Cannon and not more of actual cannon. Kim Mathews noted you are supposed to use your imagination. The idea is to encourage thinking and mystery.

Ms. Gail Greet Hannah, Chapel of Our Lady Restoration - great project like to speak on behalf of the Board of Directors of the chapel of Our Lady Restoration they are thrilled to be part of the historic team. It will help people think of the chapel as well as Scenic Hudson and they will be tied together.

Mindy Krazmien, Putnam County Historical Society – noted the Foundry museum is the recourse where artifacts are. The Foundry Museum is the owner of a Parade Parrott Cannon, made at the foundry. The Foundry Museum is in the process of exhibiting it out on the lawn. The cannon was never used but made for to display in parades.

Peter Henderson, 11 Marion Ave. - asked - If people can explore the site the way it is today? Rita Shaheen noted it is important to stay on the trails. There is a nice variety of trails including woodland trails. Kim Mathews noted there will be areas to mander around.

J. Barbaro closed public comment and asked the Planning Board if they had any comments.

J. Immorlica noted they should update the public on the project and noted the SEQR review is in progress. **J. Immorlica** moved to keep the public hearing open until everything the Planning Board asked for is in the hands of the Planning Board. Once all items such as building inspectors input and final drawings are in place then the public hearing could be closed. That way, members of the public who have interest will see the complete package to comment on before the planning board votes on the public hearing.

J. Barbaro noted there was no second to the motion.

J. Weissbrod moved to close the public hearing and **A. Saari** seconded the motion. The public hearing was closed by a vote of 3-1 **J. Immorlica** voted against closing the public hearing.

The Meeting adjourned at 9:01 P.M.

Joseph Barbaro, Planning Board Chairman

Date