

Stuyvesant Waterfront Workgroup
Meeting Notes
3/28/26

Present: Jim Werkowski, Lee Jamison, Bob Ihlenburg, Kim Mendez, Chuck Stiffler, Geoff Johnson, Bill Schneider, Deb Stasi, Jason Demarest, Ron Knott

Absent: Mike Stasi

Jim led off the meeting by saying that the idea for the workgroup came from the Comprehensive Plan, and that the group is to look into improvements that could be made to improve public access to the Hudson River and Kinderhook Creek, with an initial focus on Stuyvesant Landing area. The group is to consider both near-term solutions that could be implemented in cooperation with the waterfront landowners, and the longer-range project of possibly embarking Local Waterfront Redevelopment Plan that would address Stuyvesant's entire waterfront.

Deb said that some basic cleanup and maintenance at See Park would make it a more pleasant place to picnic and watch the river. She noted that overgrown underbrush has blocked the view from the picnic tables, and that the tables, benches and grills could use maintenance. Ron said that he would like to see the sign that memorializes Dr. and Mrs. See refreshed and the area around the sign and granite marker improved. Geoff said that he thought the District Commissioners would go along with all that and suggested that someone attend a commissioners' meeting to discuss. Lee pointed out that the commissioners may have improvements in mind that we consider in our discussions. Kim suggested organizing a volunteer effort to help maintain the park, coordinating with River Sweeper.

We then had a lengthy general discussion about the more substantive problems of erosion along the river edge, and related to that, creating access from the south end of See Park to the DEC woodlands and beaches that would avoid trespassing on the CSX right of way. Chuck talked about how the restrictions imposed by the conservation easement have made it difficult to do much of anything at See Park. Jason noted that without addressing erosion, See Park will disappear, and that such an effort would require engineering expertise and substantial financial resources. Jim noted that the original reason for the conservation easement, protection of *Plantago cordata*, may no longer be valid, so perhaps the easement could be legally voided. Ron told us that in past discussions with DEC, they would not agree to adding fill to the river edge to allow a path from See Park to the beaches, but that it might be possible now to build on the sustainable stabilization project at Ferry Road and do something similar at the Landing.

The discussion then turned to the desirability of having a seasonal floating dock next to the boat ramp that could be used both by the Fire Company's rescue boat and by the public to launch kayaks and small watercraft. There was a general consensus that this seemed like a reasonable project to pursue, as it is consistent with the public's retained right under the easement to land small boats and would have minimal, if any, negative environmental impact.

Kim turned our attention to Swyer Preserve where sections of the boardwalk have been closed for safety reasons.

Jim will attempt to contact the Nature Conservancy regarding repairs at Swyer and permission to install the floating dock. He will also try to contact DEC regarding access to the state lands from See Park.

Bill told us about kayak access to Kinderhook Creek at Stuyvesant Falls. We agreed to talk more about Kinderhook Creek at the next meeting, which we agreed will be on 4/25/26 at 11am.

The meeting concluded at noon.

Notes compiled by Jim Werkowski