

**“Riverfront” Forum, April 24, 2010**  
**Cold Spring Special Board for a Comprehensive Plan**

Anne Impellizzeri, Facilitator  
Richard Weissbrod, Recorder

The group considered five distinct areas that involve boating:

- Northern Dockside
- Dockside directly on the River
- Main Dock
- Boat Club
- Foundry Dock Park

**Foundry Dock Park**

The Park facilitates launching of kayaks, rowboats canoes, and small-motorized watercraft limited with 10 hp engines or less. Trailer launching requires a permit available at the Village Hall. There are a fixed number of annual permits available, however the total number of requests has never been exhausted.

One person mentioned that there are a few private mooring buoys off of the Foundry Dock that are subject to NYS state regulation and fees. The State does not seem to bother with them.

Scenic Hudson operates the Foundry Dock Park and members of the Group seem satisfied with their stewardship of this property and the role it plays in the Village.

**Boat Club**

The Cold Spring Boat Club is a private membership (approximately 150 members) organization that leases its property from Cold Spring. As a part of its lease arrangement, the Boat Club, by rule, admits to its membership all residents of Phillipstown. The Cold Spring Boat Club has two forms of membership: boaters (approximately 75) and associate members (approximately 75) who have access to the boathouse and use of the picnic area. The Boat Club accommodates two to three new boating members per boating season and, as a result, there is no unmet demand.

There was appreciation for the increasingly welcoming tone of the Boat Club, although more welcoming signage was urged

The Boat Club does not generally advertise the availability of visitor docking, although they are included in some listings. Last year they welcomed 4000 visitors. They seem pleased with the fact that they are the only place in the area where visitors can dock for free.

The Boat Club welcomes visitors arriving by boat. Because of the River current, wakes caused by passing tugboat and other technical factors, such as the greater depth beyond the current docks, the Boat Club can only welcome 30' or shorter visiting boats. The Boat Club cannot generally welcome visitors arriving by foot. Members of the Group found this a reasonable and workable distinction.

Residents of Cold Spring and Phillipstown are welcome to launch their boat free of charge, although Peekskill and Beacon charge for permits. Otherwise persons wishing to launch must pay a nominal fee. Those launching boats need to park trailer and truck in the Metro North

Parking lot after launching the boat due to the lack of street parking. Members of the Boat Club reported that there were very few launchings over the course of the boating season.

Jet skis can launch at the Boat Club if they wish although there has not been much demand. While some object to the noise of jet skis, Boat Club members said if you can live with the train, then jet skis and high-powered boats should be no problem; “everybody has a right” to use them.

The Boat Club performs a number of useful functions for the Village, Phillipstown and Putnam County. (see attached list)

Expansion of the Boat Club’s activities to including sailing lessons seemed limited because of the difficult winds and currents at Cold Spring , although Claudio Marzollo, who owns a sailboat, would like to see more sailing through Phillipstown Recreation Department

### **Building Boats Building Bridges**

Building Boats Building Bridges (BBBB) is a not-for-profit organization that conducts activities for the Town’s youth. These activities include building substantial oar-powered boats that the participating youths then take out into the River. BBBB had conducted a community-rowing program that included adults as well as youths. BBBB had to discontinue this program due to logistical problems stemming from BBBB’s storage facility at the Foundry.

The Group clearly supported BBBB, its , especially connecting kids with the River, and its need for a permanent location with direct River access and a small structure, possibly at Dockside

### **Main Dock**

Present access to the Main Dock is almost exclusively by foot. River tour boats and other larger vessels do occasionally tie-up to the Main Dock. At present, these boats must receive a permit from the Village and the permits are awarded for special occasions and events, not regular service.

Physical limitations do exist regarding the size of the vessel. Currently the depth at mean low tide is approximately 8’ to 9.” The owners of the tour boat, Commander, with a 5 to 5 ½ for draft,, have tied up at the dock and would like to do so in the future. They are fully prepared to pay for doing so, although the specific fee for this activity was not discussed.

The Town of Cornwall across the river has developed docking and fees that may be worth learning about. They have a Dockmaster, and volunteers collect the fees.

Seth Gallagher mentioned that Main Dock improvements such as bollards and floating platforms that extend further into the River in order to accommodate larger vessels are in the works. The Mayor also mentioned that visitors arriving by boat avoided the thorny problem of additional automobiles in the Village.

### **Dockside Directly on the River**

This topic did not seem to generate much interest or discussion.

### **Northern Dockside**

The Northern Dockside presently has a boat launch which kayaks occasionally use. The launching facility is not maintained as such. Some thought that this launch would be better

utilized by granting vehicular access to the area and its parking facilities. Others expressed the view that this would clash with the Greenway program and other uses of the park.

The Northern Dockside property includes considerable acreage that is currently “water.” Some thought that mooring buoys could be positioned in this area and boats could pay a fee for tying up either for a short period of several days or longer. Those visitors taking advantage of moorings or docks could pay at a self-metering device possibly located at the Boat Club or gazebo.

Building Boats Building Bridges expressed an interest in having a permanent facility in this area. Currently BBBB has a temporary facility at the old Foundry office building and Scenic Hudson has implied that, if BBBB could find a different facility, Scenic Hudson would appreciate it since BBBB’s cinder block facility does not fit with the historic site.

BBBB has moored its boats in this area during the summer months. Even though the boats have moored here without incident, many felt that they might be subject to vandalism or theft.

#### Issues

1. Both the Boat Club and Main Dock are susceptible to silting which limits the size of vessels that can call on the Main Dock and watercraft that can launch from the Boat Club. Charlie Merando said that silting must be addressed. But by whom and at what cost to whom was not mentioned.
2. John Cronin mentioned, as did others that the Phillipstown residents are not generally aware of the provision that permits them to join the Boat Club. Charlie Merando said that the Boat Club officers regularly make the Village and Town Boards aware of this benefit to residents. Somehow, this understanding does not seem to reach the general public.
3. Moorings, who purchases, who maintains, how fees are collected?
4. Building Bridges Building Boats has a very inconvenient location as it is not located on the Hudson and requires trailering its boats to the River.
5. Membership fees were not discussed. Boating membership entails a fee of perhaps \$75 [that’s what I think I heard and I’m pretty sure it’s right.] plus 35 hours of work; social membership is less.
6. Revenue possibilities are worth exploring for permits and fees for drop-off and pick-up, for transients, and for launching.