

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

**Notes
Informal Meeting of March 24, 2011
At Village Hall, Main Street**

Present: Mike Armstrong, Chair; Anne Impellizzeri, Vice Chair; Members: Karen Doyle, Marie Early

Absent: Cathryn Fadde, Marshall Mermell, Anthony Phillips, Michael Reisman, Catharine Square

Also present: Emily Vail (Watershed Outreach Specialist, Hudson River Estuary Program), Beth Roessler (Stream Buffer Coordinator, Hudson River Estuary Program), Laura Heil (SCA Intern with Trees for Tribes)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Remarks of Chair

Mike Armstrong welcomed Emily Vail, Beth Roessler and Laura Heil to the meeting and said Emily and Beth would give a presentation on green infrastructure and the Trees for Tribes program. He also noted that this would be an informal meeting since a quorum was not present and for that reason, some items on the planned agenda (minutes, planning for May 14 community meeting, discussion of MGP site alternatives) would not be discussed. He reminded the Special Board members present that there may be a Special Board meeting on March 31; he is waiting to hear from all the members about their availability.

Presentations and Discussion with DEC representatives Emily Vail on Green Infrastructure (storm water management, flood control, etc.), and Beth Roessler on Trees for Tribes

Emily and Beth gave a slide presentation on their respective topics. Since the slide presentation will be sent to all Special Board members, these minutes will only capture questions and answers. It should be noted that Emily was very complimentary about the Village of Cold Spring Comprehensive Plan.

Q: What is a nonpoint source?

A: Examples include sediment, nutrients, heavy metals, road salt, bacteria, pesticides, oil and grease, trash – anything that does not come from a pipe.

Q: Is the Beacon Institute example at Denny's Point?

A: Yes.

Q: Can you talk about the difficulty of snow plowing permeable surfaced parking areas?

A: There are maintenance challenges with porous pavement. Considerations include using less road salt in winter so that the water doesn't contaminate the aquifers; an advantage with pervious pavement is that ice is less likely to form since as the snow is melting it is infiltrating rather than gathering on the surface and re-

freezing; sand should not be used since it can plug up the pores; porous pavement, depending on the type, may require vacuuming or sweeping so that fine particles that do not get into the pores; it is recommended that snow plow blades be set up a little higher so that the blade does not grind off the top layer; and it is important that the concrete is mixed and poured correctly which, if not done properly, can result in ground heaving with frosts.

Q: Do you know anything about the Stewart Airport pervious pavement project – when was it put in?

A: There were 2 different time periods for this project. The first parking lot didn't work out as well; the second was installed with a new technique or different concrete and has been more successful. The whole project was completed last year although it was started a few years ago.

Q: The Comprehensive Plan purposely encouraged use of pervious surfaces; however, there was concern that the plan should not go too far and require pervious surfaces. Are there standards? Are surfaces graded as to their permeability?

A: Yes, there are differences in permeability across the various techniques and materials. There are advantages in using a particular material based on the specific area – for example, heavy traffic may compress the surface over time so pervious surfaces are best installed in areas of lighter traffic. More and more research is being done – the University of New Hampshire has a storm water center that is very active in doing research. They have just installed part of a highway with a pervious surface to see how it will hold up.

Q: Sometimes sand is used in lieu of salt but the sand can clog the pores so it becomes a difficult tradeoff.

A: Yes, it is a difficult tradeoff.

Q: Sidewalks – the examples are for vehicular pavement. Are there solutions for porous sidewalks? Our Comprehensive Plan calls for increasing sidewalks.

A: In Syracuse, they are using pervious concrete for sidewalks. We have more examples of parking lot installations because there are more newly installed parking lots. It is more unusual for people to be installing new sidewalks. But it has been done for sidewalks; Syracuse is a demonstration project.

Q: Are there examples of communities encouraging rain barrel use? For example, consolidated purchases to achieve a discounted rate? Are there strategies a community could employ to encourage the use of rain barrels?

A: A number of cities have done either rain barrel give-aways or rain barrel promotion programs. New York City did one as a pilot; Philadelphia also did a similar project. Big cities are looking into how they can incorporate green infrastructure in different ways. The DEC has done rain barrel building workshops in Dutchess County, run through Cornell Cooperative Extension, teaching about 20 people at a time how to build a rain barrel.

Q: What about mosquito abatement?

A: Rain barrels are constructed with a screen on top that prevent leaves from the roof getting into the barrel, as well as mosquitoes getting in.

Q: So what's disconnected there (referring to a rain garden)?

A: Instead of having the downspout flow onto a paved surface, it flows into the soil in the rain garden.

Q: How widely are codes and ordinances enacted – do you have a lot of experience with them? A model code? (talking about the role that municipalities play in implementing green infrastructure)

A: We have a worksheet for assessing your codes and ordinances. Pace University has a model code – we work with the land use law center at Pace University

Q: The more they've been in use, the better.

A: Pace follows up to see which ones have been litigated.

Comments from Beth about Trees for Tribs:

Trees for Tribs stands for Trees for Tributaries of the Hudson River.

The program provides free native plants (tree/shrubs) for streamside planting. Trees for Tribs will come out ahead of time and assess the site; the applicant must provide volunteer labor to plant the trees/shrubs and help monitor the plants.

Trees for Tribs provides many of the benefits mentioned in Emily's presentation (prevention of erosion, habitat creation, etc.).

The program applies to both public and private land. Preference is given to public sites, and private sites that are more visible.

Spring Brook is a Trees for Tribs planting site; 125 shrubs and 25 trees were provided to Spring Brook. Not all have survived but that is not unusual.

There are 2 planting seasons – one in the spring and one in the fall. This year, spring applications were due by March 1; fall applications are due August 1. The application is rather lengthy.

It was pointed out to Beth that there is a green roof at the new building at the Chapel of Our Lady Restoration so Emily may want to include that in her materials.

It was also pointed out to Beth that there's a pervious driveway on Fishkill Avenue.

Q: There is an area in Spring Brook, just before the brook goes under Fair Street, which could benefit from more trees.

A: I've heard that they're not interested in more plants but if they are, we would be willing to come back.

Q: What about trees along the river itself, such as at Dockside?

A: Yes, we will do plantings along the river. But we have not provided any plantings to Dockside to date.

Q: You had mentioned daylighting. The Back Brook was at one time open to daylight immediately north of Main Street. Should the Village consider daylighting the Back Brook? How would we know what would be good to daylight and what would not be a good candidate?

A: I don't know, but I'll check. You need to know what your goal is. It will always improve the water quality. If flooding is an issue, it should probably not be done. It would require an engineering study.

Q: There have been flooding issues with Back Brook between Garden and Church Streets. At one point, there was consideration to putting the brook into a pipe to address the problem. How does one balance the best solution for those situations? What are the issues to be considered?

A: It is never a good idea to put a stream in a pipe. It speeds up the water and can exacerbate the issue of flooding. There are many factors to be considered.

Q: Do you have any information on the value of planting along a stream? On the benefits?

A: The program is about 3 years old. No research has been done thus far but we're working on it. Relative to planting trees to address flooding along Back Brook, trees will probably not make that much of a difference; it will address erosion.

Q: What about the storm water runoff from Chestnut Street down to the Marsh?

A: The sides of the runoff area are rip rap so it wouldn't qualify

Q: The school has no pervious surfaces, including the playground. Does the school have to conform?

A: As of March 1, all new development is required to conform to the new requirements in the storm water design manual.

Q: Are hypoallergenic plantings provided by Trees for Tribs?

A: I've never had that question before. However, all plants are native species.

Discussion

Beth said that there is an area at Spring Brook where the parking lot is draining down to the brook where there is rip rap and puddles – this would be a perfect area for a rain garden. Rain gardens are typically small but this would be a perfect area for one.

Wall Street is a great area for some storm water solutions.

The timing is perfect because the Village has a storm water grant – it is federal - an \$800,000 grant and a \$200,000. It covers Mountain Avenue and Wall Street; Bruce Campbell is handling this project

Q: Are there experts in this field?

A: We are not allowed to provide recommendations.

Q: Does the DEC evaluate plans, recommend alternatives?

A: Someone reviews plans but I don't know the answer.

Q: The Village has some large properties that may be developed over the next few years. Is there anything that the Village has to do to ensure that these properties conform.

A: Yes, the Village should make sure that the codes and ordinances allow for these practices. For example, make sure that you can have roads without curbs.

Q: What is Tree City?

A: Cities can apply to be a Tree City. It is not sponsored by Trees for Tribs.

Q: How far back does the area go for Trees for Tribs – would it cover the entire Village?

A: It is contiguous; no more than 300 plantings at any one site. So no, it would not cover the entire Village.

Public Comments

Public comments and questions included: do these green infrastructure requirements, as of March 1, apply to New York State property (yes, both public and private land); how would we enforce it here (Storm Water permit – Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for both during construction and after construction, it is a state permit).

Adjournment

The group adjourned at about 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Early, Secretary