

**Village of Cold Spring Planning Board
Thursday May 26, 2022
Meeting Minutes**

The Village of Cold Spring Planning Board held a Meeting via videoconference as per Chapter 1 NYS Laws of 2022 on May 26, 2022. Members present: Chairperson Jack Goldstein, Sue Meyer and Yaslyn Daniels, Matt Francisco, Lara Eldin. The Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. Chairperson Remarks.

Chairperson welcomed attendees at the present for the Meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes – May 5, 2022 Meeting

The Chairman called for a MOTION

Y. Daniels made a motion to approve the May 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes as amended. S. Meyer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously, pending confirmation of recording by J. Goldstein.

3. Member Reports

Sue Meyer reported that she went Dockside Park, and observed the cement launcher pad was in the water. She observed a pile of rubbish at the end of the shoreline in the area close to the tracks. Front-loader driver working at site stated there may be changes to the shoreline plan in that area due to the trash and garbage that collects there. Worker also advised they were removing old rocks and replacing with new ones.

4. Correspondence – None.

5. Old Business

Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail

J. Goldstein acknowledged the presence of M.J. Martin, Director of Development & Community Engagement for Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, Inc., and two other attendees at the Meeting.

J. Goldstein stated he was unable to attend the Fjord Trail public presentation (the "Presentation") held on May 25, 2022, but will review the recording, and encouraged others to do the same. Jeff Vidakovich advised the video is available for viewing on the website. J. Goldstein asked Board Members Y. Daniels and S. Meyer to give their impressions of the Presentation.

Y. Daniels welcomed members of the HHFT Team Project present and expressed appreciation their attending the Meeting at the last minute.

Y. Daniels remarked the Presentation was very well done, and was impressed with all of the work done over the past few years. She commented MJ Martin and her team were very gracious and did answer a lot of questions using available data. Y. Daniels supports the project as did many of the community but noted the following concerns:

- Increased visitor traffic and control;
- Parking;
- Safety;
- Effect on Village infrastructure and facilities;
- Effect on wildlife;
- Timeline of available data for ongoing review and clarifying issues.

Y. Daniels commented that the Board needs to be focused on contingencies – how does the Board support the VBOT in formulating ideas, suggestions, and reviewing data in order to influence the Master Plan and Site Plan.

Y. Daniels reported that, while there was not necessarily new information learned at the Presentation, it appears from many comments made, including from former Town Supervisor John Shea, that the project is inevitable. However, there is not enough data available at this point for HHFT to provide solutions though references were made to pending studies and research. Y. Daniels noted current and past Cold Spring Boards have done their own work that could be combined with data gathered by the HHFT.

S. Meyer commented that the Presentation was, in general, well done, and new things were added that were not in existence a few years ago. The concentration is focused on what the trail will look and feel like, and the enjoyment by the public. However, the Presentation did not address in detail or with more thought, as to the effects on Dockside Park. S. Meyer further remarked that as citizens, we should do whatever we can to be constructive and do a good job, instead of doing a bad job that has to be later undone.

J. Goldstein asked M.J. Martin if she was comfortable fielding questions from Board Members, noting this was not a formal public hearing, nor scheduled presentation. M.J. Martin stated she was present to observe and gather information. J. Goldstein agreed the project was on the Agenda for discussion purposes only, in order for Board Members to inform one another of their developing opinions and concerns. He invited M.J. Martin to contribute to the discussion if she wished to.

J. Goldstein stated the Board will ask for a formal Presentation and may exercise its right to hold a public hearing on the project in the future. He agreed that the insufficiency of real data upon which to make decisions may have a considerable impact not only the Village but also on planning and budgeting processes in the future.

M. Francisco questioned the statements regarding the lack of available data to provide solutions, in light of other statements that the Project is a "done deal" and solutions have been identified, e.g., offering Dockside Park as the southern terminus of the project.

Y. Daniels noted her impression was that the project will be moving forward in some capacity, indeed that there are improvements that have already been done. There may be corrections to the Master Plan, based upon new data, and feedback from partners. Everyone sees the benefit but questions remain around the issues and concerns raised. Studies and data are needed to address those questions.

M. Francisco further asked if the Planning Board's April 5, 2022 letter to the VBOT identifying concerns and issues about HHFT was read into the record at the May 25th VBOT Meeting. J. Goldstein stated it was his understanding that the letter was not read into the record, but was referred to by Mayor Foley during the Presentation. M. Francisco commented it was highly unusual for any letter submitted to a Board to not be read into the record. Moreover, the Board's letter was not read at either of the last two (2) VBOT Meetings. J. Goldstein stated he would ask the Mayor for clarification.

M. Francisco asked M.J. Martin if the Mayor had personally reached out to inform her about the Planning Board Meeting. M.J. Martin commented that the information came out during the Presentation to the VBOT. M.J. Martin commented she would like to attend Board Meetings if the HHFT is on the agenda. M. Francisco thanked M.J. Martin.

L. Eldin commented that as a citizen, design professional, Board Member, and neighbor, her approach is to look at the shift in design goals. The plan initially set forth goals of mitigation to the strain on infrastructure, but has now expanded over time. The expressed concerns are valid. A plan of broader vision can be adaptable if the HHFT Team is open to a participatory design process which provides the community opportunity to be heard. L. Eldin questioned whether the project will be able to keep up with its own shifting goals.

Y. Daniels commented that the HHFT Team has reviewed and updated goals for the 2020 Master Plan, including management of increased visitors to Cold Spring and the 9D corridor. She stated the Village concerns on five (5) or so issues.

(L. Eldin left the Meeting at 7:47 p.m.)

J. Goldstein reported he had attended a recent meeting with Village Attorney John Furst, Esq., the Mayor, and Trustee Tweeps Woods. Questions included the following:

- What is the schedule of the EIS?
- What if any of those steps have been completed?
- Who will be named an affected party in the EIS?

He reported there needs to be more specificity in the SEQRA, before anyone can really know what is really being discussed. Mayor Foley is sending a letter to the Department of Parks for more SEQRA details.

J. Goldstein raised the possibility of meeting with other Planning Boards from other affected municipalities for an exchange of ideas. J. Goldstein accidentally ran into a member of another Planning Board affected by this Project. He advised that their Board had not formally held any meetings regarding the HHFT, but their governing body has done so some time ago.

S. Meyer stated it was important that data needs to be completed, however, the timing of completion for the trail from the Village to Beacon is within three (3) years. This is not really a long time.

M.J. Martin noted that completion dates of the Breakneck Connector Bridge and Dutchess Manor Visitor Center, and segment of trail between those two locations, is projected to 2025. Shore Trail is not even considered for build until 2024 with a projected completion date of 2027.

In response to J. Goldstein's question, M.J. Martin advised that a "negative declaration" had not yet been issued. Environmental review is still ongoing. M.J. Martin encouraged all to review the Presentation recording of May 25th, and also to view the two (2) 2020 Webinars on the website which may answer many of the Board's questions.

J. Goldstein stated he did not agree that the HH Fjord Trail is a "done deal." and that the perception is exceedingly damaging to the relationship between the 2000 residents of Cold Spring and the state Agencies and project sponsors. He agreed that there is insufficient data available, and no indication of when such data would be available. At what point will full access to information be granted to the public?

A formal invitation for a presentation will be forthcoming from the Board to M.J. Martin and her team. Y. Daniels commented the Board should discuss what it will require from the HHFT for such a presentation, so there is not a rehash of what has already been presented on May 25th.

M. Francisco further asked what type of public hearing is held in the absence of an application. J. Goldstein clarified that in the event the Village is named as an affected party under the EIS, it may be permissible for the Board to conduct a public meeting in the future. Village Attorney did not recommend the Board do so, but something for the Board to explore as a possible future option.

J. Goldstein thanked M.J. Martin and HHFT0 Team for being present, as well as any members of the public.

6. New Business – None

7. Public Comment

Karen Maschke, President of the Board of Managers from Forge Gate Condominiums asked Y. Daniels to identify the five issues referred to in her earlier statement. Y. Daniels there will be much more discussion on the issues.

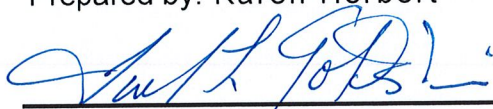
8. Board Business - None

9. Adjournment

The Chairman called for a MOTION.

M. Francisco made a motion to adjourn the Meeting. Y. Daniels seconded the motion and it passed 4-0-0-1 (*L. Elding left Meeting at 7:47 p.m.*). Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Prepared by: Karen Herbert



Jack Goldstein, Chair

06/13/22 -

Date