

Village of Cold Spring Planning Board**Thursday April 14, 2022****Meeting Minutes**

The Village of Cold Spring Planning Board held a Meeting via videoconference as per Chapter 1 NYS Laws of 2022 on April 14, 2022. Members present: Chairperson Jack Goldstein, Matt Francisco, Lara Eldin and Sue Meyer. Yaslyn Daniels was absent. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. Chairperson Remarks - Report to Members: Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail.

Chairperson Jack Goldstein noted he circulated his report on the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Project (the "Project") to Board Members for discussion of concerns. J. Goldstein noted certain materials were not available to him:

- only ten (10) pages of the 2015 Master Plan could be located;
- no documentation of any alternatives to the Plan is available.

Board Discussion and Comments

L. Eldin commented that the initial Project as presented was designed to alleviate congestion, and create pathways. The more current "reimagination" seems to go beyond just a connective corridor, demonstrated by talk of an amphitheater and the recent purchase of Dutchess Manor. L. Eldin commented that generally speaking, a design process begins with a "sky is the limit" proposal in order to garner public support and excitement. In time, the project becomes whittled down to be more realistic and manageable. In contrast, the Project has expanded over time. L. Eldin questioned what role of the Planning Board is at this point in the process.

J. Goldstein commented that the partners in this Project have not been forthcoming and it appears that a good deal of the "reimagination" has taken place behind the scenes. Based upon what he has learned, it seems certain the Project as now described will result in increased pedestrian and vehicular traffic with devastating effects on the Village. Regarding the Dockside contract with the Village, the terms place the responsibility for maintenance and liability on the Village, as lessee. No meaningful conversation has been had regarding the design of Dockside, and no specifics as to the cost to the Village of such maintenance and liability.

M. Francisco expressed his concern that if the Village is to be the starting point of the Fjord Trail, how will it manage the increase in pedestrian and vehicular traffic, and refuse? Village resources are already strained. M. Francisco also questioned the role of the Planning Board in this situation, noting that Board Members are appointees, not elected officials. The Village Board of Trustees is the elected body, with executive and legislative powers. It is mandated to protect the Village and the residents. M. Francisco further referred to the proposed Resolutions of both the Village and the Town of Philipstown to prevent the reopening of the Breakneck Ridge MNR Station. That effort will not prevent people from coming.

S. Meyers commented that she had attended the Project presentation in 2016. There was no mention of Cold Spring as the starting point of the Fjord Trail, the Dockside project, or the purchase of Dutchess Manor. The property owners present at that time had many questions. The general description of the Project was that it would be a trail for nature lovers. S. Meyers expressed safety concerns of the trail running along the shoreline and Metro-North tracks, and noted the complete lack of space for parking. S. Meyers also questioned the ability of the Planning Board to intervene at this point.

Discussion ensued as to what, if any, course of action the Planning Board could take. All were in agreement that the effects of the Project on the Village could be devastating. J. Goldstein stated that the Board, while not comprising of elected officials, is tasked with safeguarding the existing law and the intent of the law. As stewards and administrators, the Board is not precluded from dealing with larger issues. Moreover, the Village Code grants investigatory authority to the Board.

Members agreed that a concise statement of concern should be drafted and presented to the Village Board of Trustees.

- 2. Approval of Minutes - None**
- 3. Member Reports - None**
- 4. Correspondence - None**
- 5. Old Business - None**
- 6. New Business – None**
- 7. Public Comment – None**
- 8. Board Business – None**
- 9. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Prepared by: Karen Herbert

Jack Goldstein, Chair

Date