

## **Red Hook Greenway and Trails Committee Meeting Minutes for 5 March 2009**

**Members Present:**     **Howie Callies, Chair, Doug Strawinski,  
John Kuhn, Marina Michahelles  
Henry Christopher**

**Liaison Present:**     **Micki Strawinski**

### **Summary of Meeting at Bard College**

**Thursday, 12 Feb 2009, 12:00 a.m.**

#### **Bard Student Center Lounge**

Marina Michahelles chaired this meeting. Each attendee identified himself or herself and the organization represented. Marina developed a Contact Sheet complete with e-mail addresses and phone numbers of all the stakeholders. The meeting focused on the development/improvement of the Tivoli to Bard College Trail through the Tivoli Bays. The discussion covered a multiplicity of concerns with contributions from all who attended. After the meeting Marina sent out a follow-up email to all attendees.

February 16, 2009

Hello everyone,

Thank you for attending the trails meeting on Feb 12<sup>th</sup> at Bard. It was very helpful to hear that we are all on the same page in many respects. Thanks in particular to Ann-Marie and Nathan for attending and for speaking on behalf of the DEC.

Our next steps are to:

1. Sign up as Tivoli Trails "stewards," look at maintenance guidelines from DEC;
2. Determine what needs to be done in terms of trail maintenance in order to prepare for a spring clean-up with volunteers (Trail-Needs Walk on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.)
3. Set a date for trail clean-up when students will be on campus.

We can also begin to look into the feasibility of any trail improvements the Trails Committee and Bard community want to propose, such as spreading item 4 in low spots, improving culverts, and putting up kiosks at trail heads. We will work on a formal proposal to the DEC if these improvements are deemed necessary for our goal to provide the Bard community (and beyond!) with a safe route for alternative commuting.

Happy trails,

Marina Michahelles

The Information Contact Sheet is below:

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Email Address</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
Foster	Amy	Bard	<a href="mailto:afoster@bard.edu">afoster@bard.edu</a>	758-7179
Husted	Laurie	Bard	<a href="mailto:husted@bard.edu">husted@bard.edu</a>	758-7180
Pavlich	Fred	Bard	<a href="mailto:fpavlich@bard.edu">fpavlich@bard.edu</a>	706-2702
Olson	Anneka	Bard	<a href="mailto:ao217@bard.edu">ao217@bard.edu</a>	
Maple	Bill	Bard	<a href="mailto:maple@bard.edu">maple@bard.edu</a>	752-2334
Toay	Taun	Bard	<a href="mailto:toay@bard.edu">toay@bard.edu</a>	758-7745
Simmons	Chuck	Bard	simmons@bard.edu	758-7465
Clum	Randy	Bard	<a href="mailto:clum@bard.edu">clum@bard.edu</a>	758-7468
Lawrence	Spencer	Bard	<a href="mailto:sl991@bard.edu">sl991@bard.edu</a>	617-548-7946
Reed	Katie	Bard	<a href="mailto:kr373@bard.edu">kr373@bard.edu</a>	630-234-2994
Caprioli	Ann-Marie	DEC	<a href="mailto:axcaprio@gw.dec.state.ny.us">axcaprio@gw.dec.state.ny.us</a>	889-4745
Ermer	Nathan	DEC	nmeremer@gw.dec.state.ny.us	x114
Strawinski	Micki	RHTB	MStrawinsk@aol.com	256-3047
Michahelles	Marina	RHTC	<a href="mailto:marina_bink@yahoo.com">marina_bink@yahoo.com</a>	876-4110
Callies	Howie	RHTC	<a href="mailto:hoca@mycellery.com">hoca@mycellery.com</a>	845-758-9961
Christopher	Henry	RHTC	enryka@earthlink.ne	758-4410
Kuhn	John	RHTC	jdkuhn99@hotmail.com	633-3264
Strawinski	Doug	RHTC	andlynnconst@aol.com	399-3585
				876-4110

### **Scheduled Tivoli to Bard Trail Events:**

- 14 March 2009 Walk of the trail to determine needs
- 18 April 2009 Trail Cleanup Day with volunteers
- 22 April 2009 Earth Day – Possible Activities at Bard
- Fall 2009 Official Reopening of the Tivoli to Bard Trail

### **St. Margaret's Home Property**

As discussed at previous meetings, the development of destinations for walkers and hikers within the Town of Red Hook could encourage positive social and physical activity. The St. Margaret's Site could be such a place on the south side of town. Individuals could walk from various points, interact at the site developed as a park with benches, picnic tables, gardens, etc. and then return home. Paths from the Hardscrabble parking lot to St. Margaret's would encourage visits from people who do not want to walk.

Further development of the St. Margaret's Property as a destination park as outlined in the Town of Red Hook's Recreational Needs Assessment included an evaluation of the trees on the St. Margaret's property by Amy Foster, head horticulturist for Bard College, Michele Decker, landscape architect, and Nancy Guski, Tree Committee Chair. Paula Schoonmaker, Chair of the St. Margaret's Committee created a summary of this evaluation:

## **St. Margaret's Landscaping**

### **South east side adjoining Hannaford's**

1. The white pines have been eaten by deer and are not providing the visual buffer required by the site plan approval. They also drop branches when mature.
2. The landscape consultants recommend removing the white pines and installing either white spruce or Norway spruce, which are deer resistant and will grow tall enough to provide the required visual buffer.

### **East side**

1. Remove caved-in barn, documenting with photos and notes as removal progresses.
2. Watch for resurgence of poison ivy.
3. Remove invasive ailanthus.

### **Northeast side toward septic area**

1. Protect wetland area, making sure that it continues to provide drainage. Can install plants that take up water.
2. Remove invasive ailanthus

### **North side**

1. Remove evergreen at corner of porch.
2. Gradually remove earth piled up around trunk of little leaf linden at current driveway entrance. Watch for sucker growth.

### **Front**

1. Talk to NYS DOT about changing driveway access.
2. Remove remains of weeping willow
3. Figure out how to put in lawn so it can be mowed

### **South side, past garage**

1. Take down dead and leaning trees. Take down double-trunked evergreen (white pine?) next to garage. Plan for park.

### **For the Future**

1. Consider a path from Hardscrabble, past the building, to the park area south of the garage
2. Consider a visual scheme for the front of the house. Maybe another little leaf Linden at the south end of the property to frame the house. Maybe a hedge. Maybe a fence. Research Victorian landscapes, and check A.J. Downing landscapes.

Summary by Paula Schoonmaker

Because of the years of neglect and the unfortunate decisions made about the grounds of St. Margaret's, this is obviously a major undertaking that will require considerable labor and planning. However, sidewalks will eventually extend as far as the St. Margaret's on the west side of Route 9 and development of this park site with a community concept that utilizes volunteer individuals and service groups, clubs, etc. will be well worth the effort.

#### **Sidewalk to Recreation Park Update**

The Town and Village of Red Hook applied for a community development block grant to construct a sidewalk along east side of Linden Avenue to connect the Village and the Recreation Park. The Trails Committee would like to see a barrier separating the roadway from the sidewalk if possible to improve the safety for all users.

#### **School Zone Signage and Reduced Speed Limits Update**

The Committee has contacted the RHCSO to inquire about and to ask for the installation of School Zone Signs and reduced speed limits for specified school hours. If this is a NYSDOT matter, perhaps the RHCSO should be the lead agency in contacting them. If it the Town or the Village, then the Committee will pursue it. Micki Strawinski will do further research into this matter.

#### **Wetlands Walk Platform Update**

Construction of the Wetlands Walk Observation Platform may require waiting for the wetlands to freeze to allow heavy equipment to set the 6x6 posts. Doug Strawinski and Howie Callies will determine the construction needs and locate a reasonable site for the platform. This project will be reviewed at the next Recreation Commission meeting.

#### **Trail Along the Sawkill Creek at the Recreation Park**

After walking this ground on 5 March 2009 with DEC, this is not a feasible project because there is no safe connection to the south end of the Recreation Park.

#### **Shared Roadway and Red Wing Trail**

On Monday, 23 February 2009, Howie Callies and John Kuhn drove out to the Red Wing trail that begins on the east edge of the Town of Red Hook off Williams Road. A shared roadway suitable for hiking and biking would be the connection of Pitcher Lane, Route 9, Starbarrack Road, Williams Road to the Red Wing Trail. Signs could be posted and lines drawn on our existing maps to identify this possible route for hikers and bikers.

### **Ruth Oja's Wetlands Walk Dedication Plaque**

This must be ordered and installed soon! The cost is considerable (\$400.00 - \$600.00) but there is money in the budget to cover this expense. Although the plaque presented to Ruth Oja at the Wetlands Walk Dedication contained a picture, this plaque will include text only. This plaque will be affixed to the center rock of the south entrance to the trail. John Kuhn will research prices.

### **Red Hook Rambles**

Sponsored and guided by the members of the Red Hook Greenway and Trails Committee, this would be a number of hikes (rambles) for the community ages 8 to 80. Rambles could be scheduled for the major trail sites in Red Hook – Poet's Walk, UTS, Tivoli Bays, Village of Red Hook, etc. If we can decide on dates and times, they could be listed in the Summer Programs Brochure. Perhaps three or four rambles could be scheduled to see how the community responds.

### **Mission Statement**

A draft proposal of a revised mission statement for the committee reads as follows:

*The Red Hook Greenways and Trail Committee enriches lives through a comprehensive trail system providing residents and visitors safe and scenic opportunities for recreation, fitness, education, and transportation.*

*The Committee develops trails, paths, walkways, sidewalks, shared roadways, and bike ways to promote healthy community development, environmental awareness, social interaction, educational opportunities, and nature appreciation.*

This draft will be reviewed at the Greenways and Trails Committee meeting on 2 April 2009.