

## **Red Hook Greenway and Trails Committee Meeting Minutes for 7 May 2009**

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

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

### **Map Development**

Completion of the color-coded Red Hook trails map; requires a cost for different sized versions with folding, etc. This map would be posted on the Town of Red Hook Website, the NYS Trails Website, and on the Dutchess County Website. Posting would allow downloading and printing the map in color that would clearly show the different trails.

### **Sidewalk to St. Margaret's on west side of Route 9**

Construction of this sidewalk appears to have begun from Old Farm Road to Rokeby Road. Consideration of the crosswalk location by the light at the intersection of Route 9 and Rokeby Road may require a special walk capability on the traffic light. Has this been considered?

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

The Red Hook Village and the RHCS D have received a grant to install School Zone Signs and reduced speed limits for specified school hours. Marked crosswalks and solar-powered lights are planned. Perhaps our letter to the RHCS D spurred this effort along! At any rate this addresses the Trail Committee's concerns about the lack of lights, signage, and crosswalks on West Market Street and Linden Avenue as noted in previous meeting minutes.

### **Recreation Park Extension**

The new extension will definitely include a walking track around the perimeter of the whole parcel. There will also be a connecting trail to Aspinwall Road as part of the Village to Village Trail. Combined with the existing Recreation Park Track, the Wetlands Walk, the new park trail will offer safe exercise and recreation opportunities for users of all ages.

### **River Road Speed Limit**

For the safety of hikers and bikers, the Trails Committee believes that a maximum speed of 35 on this narrow road is needed. Research will be done with the Highway Department to determine how such a request is done. In the meantime Shared Roadway signage with the bicycle picture may be the best we can do. Does Dutchess County provide these signs?

### **Wetlands Walk Plantings**

On 25 April 2009 the Trees Committee with members and volunteers planted shrubs along the walk.

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

As discussed at the last meeting, 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. Again, signage purchase and placement is a budget concern.

### **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. The wording approved for the plaque is as follows:

*Dedicated to Ruth Oja for her many years of loving service to the Town of Red Hook. Her plan for a comprehensive trail system, preserving greenspaces, and connecting points of interest accessible to walkers and bikers of all ages led to the building of this Wetlands Walk. Here we can see up close the flora and fauna of a working wetland, enjoy healthy outdoor recreation, and keep alive an appreciation for natural processes in the lives of all of us who live in Red Hook.*

### **Letter to the Community Preservation Fund**

At our next meeting the committee will discuss drafting a letter to the CPF outlining Greenways and Trails projects within the town.

## **Mission Statement**

Please review once again the revised Mission Statement discussed at several past meetings! If this version is agreeable to everyone, it can be made official at our 4 June 2009 meeting.

The revised two-part statement is 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.*