

HUDSON RIVER VALLEY GREENWAY
Combined meeting of
Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Inc.,
Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council,
and
Greenway Heritage Conservancy HRV, Inc.
October 18, 2017
Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Library and Museum
Hyde Park, NY 12538
Minutes

Conservancy Members Present

Brown, Kristin Cole, Conservancy Member
Burke, Kevin, Acting Chair
Daniels, Jane, Conservancy Member
Lanzetta, Cindy, Conservancy Member
McLaughlin, Jayne, Conservancy Treasurer
Berky, Schwartz, Jennifer, Conservancy Secretary
Olson, Sarah, Conservancy Member
Yarabek, Stefan, Conservancy Member

Conservancy Members Present by Proxy

Murray, Dennis, Conservancy Member

Conservancy Members Present by Phone

Griffen, Sara, Conservancy Member

Council Members Present

Aldrich, J. Winthrop, Council Member
Ames, Edward, New York City Council Member
Downey, Margaret (Meg), Dutchess County Council Member
Galef, Sandra, Council Member
McHenry, Barnabas, Council Chair
Saland, Stephen, Council Member
Smith, Michelle, Putnam County Council Member
von der Heide, Linda, Rensselaer County Council Member
Yaun, Johanna, Orange County Council Member

Council Members Present by Proxy

Elliott, Robert, Westchester County Council Member
Head, Betty, Albany County Council Member
Helsmoortel, Greg, Ulster County Council Member

Delegates Present

Beard, Nancy, Joint Co-Delegate for Commissioner, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Ethier, Jaime, Joint Deputy Delegate for Secretary of State

Wrafter, Eoin, Delegate for Conservancy Member Marcus Molinaro

Delegates Present by Proxy

Cooper, Linda, Joint Delegate for Commissioner, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Greenway Staff Present

Beers, Andy, Empire State Trails Director

Campochiaro, Beth, Trails and Community Outreach Director

Day, Shannon, Administrative Assistant

Jeanson, Daniel, Project Coordinator

Keller, Scott, Acting Executive Director

Marchitello, Chris, Administrative Assistant

Call to Order

Chairman Barnabas McHenry and Acting Chairman Kevin Burke called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

Introductions and Welcomes

Chairman McHenry introduced Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro. County Executive Molinaro welcomes the Board and meeting attendees to Dutchess County, and noted that Dutchess County was the first county in the Greenway to create a compact. He recognized board member Steven Saland, noting how fortunate the group was to have him present and recalled that former Senator Saland and then-Assemblyman Maurice Hinchey came together across the aisle to create the Greenway. He reflected that the Greenway's role is to bring together communities across a sprawling region, and bring recognition to that region as a whole. He noted that Dutchess County has put the ideals and principals into practice, and as an example Dutchess County has preserved more than 3,500 acres of farmland.

Chairman McHenry introduced Board Member Steven Saland, who observed that the Greenway has exceeded the expectations for it as they had conceived it, and that the Greenway would not be here today without Chairman McHenry. He congratulated all those present on bringing to fruition what was once just a dream.

Chairman McHenry then introduced Senator Sue Serino, who thanked everyone for all their hard work, and in particular Larry Turk and Paul Sparrow for hosting. Senator Serino noted that the Greenway helps communities find their path, and stated that they had extended the indemnity provision for Greenway communities for five more years. She also stated that there was currently a bill before the Governor regarding anchorages on the Hudson River. She also commended the Greenway for its work on the Empire State Trail, and announced that she had certificates of recognition for all the grant recipients for that day.

Chairman McHenry introduced Assemblyman Kevin Cahill, who thanked everyone for being there, and noted that when the Greenway legislation was first introduced there was a concern that it would not last. He recalled how he had begun his career as an intern for Maurice Hinchey, and how it was a mission for Maurice Hinchey's to help the Hudson Valley become world renowned. He

commented that the people of the Hudson Valley and especially those that come to the Greenway meetings, have helped to achieve the mission of the Greenway.

Acting Chairman Burke introduced Rick Stein, Chief of Staff for Assemblywoman Didi Barrett. The Assemblywoman was unable to attend the meeting, so Mr. Stein read a note from her addressing the Board and meeting attendees. In the note the Assemblywoman stated that she was currently on a legislative trip with colleagues from the Veteran's Affairs Committee to Pearl Harbor. She was reminded of how much she had learned from the installation presented the previous year at the FDR Library to mark the 75th anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor, and how that had informed her experience this trip. She also noted how the Hudson Valley is linked to the country and the world, and what happens here reverberates throughout the country and beyond. She was pleased to have the opportunity to share our carbon farming initiative with her colleagues and hoped that the Hudson Valley could be a model in this new method. She wished everyone a good Greenway meeting.

Acting Chairman Burke introduced Town of Hyde Park Supervisor Aileen Rohr, who welcomed everyone to Hyde Park. Supervisor Rohr stated how thankful Hyde Park is for the work of the Greenway, and that the Town strives to take the principles of the Greenway and apply it in their community to help create a sense of place in Hyde Park. She hoped everyone would have a chance to visit the Town and admire the sidewalks that originally started with a Greenway grant.

Acting Chairman Burke introduced Larry Turk, the Superintendent of the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt-Van Buren National Historic Sites. Mr. Turk noted that President Roosevelt had a vision for the United States that he had developed since he was a young man. Mr. Turk then read a quote from President Roosevelt that emphasized his dedication to environmental preservation. Mr. Turk welcomed everyone to the FDR National Historic Site.

Acting Chairman Burke introduced Paul Sparrow, Director of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum. Mr. Sparrow noted that President Roosevelt would have been thrilled that the Greenway meeting was being held at this site, as he was an environmental warrior who truly believed that good environmental policy was good economic policy. Mr. Sparrow emphasized that he hoped that people would continue to meet at the Wallace Center and to view it as a public space.

Presentations

Chairman McHenry introduced Andy Beers, Empire State Trail Director. Mr. Beers gave an update of the progress of the Empire State Trail (EST) as well as the portion of the EST that the Greenway is working on, the Albany-Hudson Electric Trail, and his presentation is appended to and a part of these minutes.

During a question and answer period, an audience member brought up Haverstraw Bay Park and how the primary concern was with helping people with mobility impairments. He noted that a lot of work had gone into making that area accessible. Mr. Beers noted that the EST was planned to be either paved or stone dust throughout, and because these are rail trails the grade is very gentle, so it will be accessible to people of many abilities.

Board Member Jane Daniels asked what funding is available for signage or other improvements on segments of the Empire State Trail. Mr. Beers noted that funds have been reserved for a comprehensive wayfinding and interpretive program on the EST.

Board Delegate Meghan Taylor noted that communities on the EST should take a look at the Consolidated Funding Application grants and that projects on the EST will be looked at favorably.

Board Member Sally Mazzarella asked about the process for existing trails to interact with the EST. Mr. Beers noted that signage will show how the trails connect to the EST and the EST website will show these trails as well.

Acting Chairman Burke introduced Board Member Wint Aldrich to speak about the passing of Sam Aldrich, a champion of the Hudson Valley and the Greenway. Mr. Aldrich's comments are appended to and a part of these minutes.

Agenda Review

Acting Chairman Burke called for changes and additions to the agenda. There were no comments.

Minutes of June 7, 2017 Combined Meeting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council, Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Inc. and Greenway Heritage Conservancy HRV, Inc.

Minutes of October 11, 2017 Meeting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Grants Committee

On a motion from Stefan Yarabek (Sally Mazzarella second) the minutes of the June 7, 2017 Combined Meeting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council, Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Inc. and Greenway Heritage Conservancy HRV, Inc. were unanimously approved.

On a motion from Sally Mazzarella (Meg Downey second) the minutes of the October 11, 2017 Meeting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Grants Committee were unanimously approved. Jennifer Schwartz Berky noted that she had recused herself from the vote on the Kingston grant.

Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Inc.

Call to Order

Acting Chairman Burke called the Conservancy meeting to order.

SEQRA Resolutions

Mr. Keller explained that the first Empire State Trail SEQR resolution was to authorize declaration of lead agency status for the Greenway Conservancy and to complete the State Environmental Review Process for the Albany-Hudson Electric Trail. On a motion from Stefan Yarabek (Sarah Olson second) the motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Keller explained that the next resolution was to declare a SEQRA positive declaration and to authorize public scoping for completion of an Environmental Impact Statement for the Albany-Hudson Electric Trail. On a motion from Jennifer Schwartz Berky (Stefan Yarabek second) the motion was passed unanimously.

Greenway Trail Designations

Mr. Keller announced that the Hudson Highlands Land Trust has requested designation of 4 miles of trails in the Granite Mountain Preserve in Putnam County. Board Member and Hudson Highlands Land Trust Executive Director Michelle Smith spoke about the work that had been done of this property and how they were very grateful for the designation.

Mr. Keller announced that there was an amendment to the trail designation from the previous meeting, that the Museum in the Streets trail in Altamont was mistakenly designated as a riverside trail and the amendment would designate it as a countryside corridor.

Acceptance of Audit

Mr. Keller explained that the next resolution was to accept the findings of the audit. Conservancy Treasurer Jayne McLaughlin announced that the audit received a clean finding.

Budget Adoption

Conservancy Treasurer Jayne McLaughlin noted that she had reviewed the budget for the Conservancy and the National Heritage Area. No questions were raised.

Greenway Conservancy Trail Grants Awards

Acting Executive Director Scott Keller reviewed the Grant's Committee's recommendations for the 2017 Greenway Conservancy Trail Grants.

The *Friends of Five Rivers, Albany County* is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$5,500 for the Nature's Accessible Backyard Trail Environmental Education Garden Project. The committee recommends \$5,500.

The *Columbia Economic Development Corporation, Columbia County* is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$12,750 for a Boston & Albany Rail Trail Study. The committee recommends \$12,750.

The *Friends of Lindenwald, Columbia County* is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$5,000 for Martin Van Buren Park trail improvements. The committee recommends \$5,000.

The *Thomas Cole Historic House, Columbia County* is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$24,900 for connecting the Thomas Cole Site with SkyWalk. The committee recommends \$19,900.

The *City of Beacon, Dutchess County* is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$39,500 for preliminary design of a segment of the Beacon Hudson River Trail. The committee recommends \$39,500.

The *Friends of Mills Mansion, Dutchess County* are seeking grant funding in the amount of \$4,050 for design and implementation of a guided interpretive trail walk in the landscape comprising Staatsburgh SHS, Mills Memorial SP and Margaret Lewis Norrie SP. The committee recommends \$4,050.

The *Village of Wappinger's Falls, Dutchess County* is seeking grant funding in the

amount of \$20,000 for the Lower Wappinger Creek community boathouse. The committee recommends \$20,000.

The *Hudson Highlands Land Trust, Putnam County* is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$15,000 for Granite Mountain Preserve public access improvements. The committee recommends \$15,000.

Rockland County is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$40,000 for the Rockland County Empire State Trail enhancement project. The committee recommends \$40,000.

The *Town of East Greenbush, Rensselaer County* is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$39,920 for the East Greenbush Town Park ADA connection trail. The committee recommends \$12,000.

The *Town of Stillwater, Saratoga County* is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$17,000 for the Champlain Canalway Trail Action Plan update. The committee recommends \$17,000.

The *Kingston Land Trust, Ulster County* is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$40,000 for the Hasbrouck-Delaware Parklet landscape implementation. The committee recommends \$20,000, the maximum amount that the grant is eligible for as it is an improvement project not a trail construction or design project.

The *Orange County Water Authority, Orange County* is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$8,850 for the Wallkill River Water Trail. The committee recommends \$8,850.

The *Town of Lloyd, Ulster County* is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$39,950 for the John Burroughs Black Creek Trail Phase I implementation. The committee recommends \$39,950.

The *Feeder Canal Alliance, Washington County* is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$5,500 for the Feeder Canal education and interpretation project. The committee recommends \$5,500.

The *Town of Fort Ann, Washington County* is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$20,000 for the Battle Hill Trails master plan. The committee recommends \$20,000.

Conservancy Member Jennifer Schwartz Berky recused herself from the vote on the Kingston grant. Betsy Jacks recused herself on the vote for the Thomas Cole House grant.

On a motion from Jennifer Schwartz Berky (Jane Daniels second) all resolutions for the Conservancy were passed unanimously.

Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council

Call to Order

Chairman McHenry called the Council meeting to order.

Indemnification Law Update

Acting Executive Director Scott Keller noted that the indemnification legislation for Greenway Communities had been extended until December 31, 2022.

Hudson River Valley Greenway Grant Awards

Mr. Keller reviewed the Greenway Grant applications recommended for funding by the Greenway Grants Committee.

The *Town of Shawangunk, Ulster County* is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$10,000 for an update of their comprehensive plan. The committee recommends \$10,000.

The *Village of Menands, Albany County* is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$9,900 for a comprehensive plan. The committee recommends \$9,900.

The *Village of Victory, Saratoga County* is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$5,000 to develop a master plan for a vacant lot that will become the General Schuyler Saw Mill Park and connect to the Empire State Trail. The committee recommends \$5,000.

Hudson River Valley Greenway Compact Grants

Mr. Keller reviewed the Greenway Compact Grant applications recommended for funding by the Greenway Grants Committee.

The *Town of North East, Dutchess County* is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$25,000 for a joint Master Plan with the Village of Millerton. The committee recommends \$25,000.

The *Town of Red Hook, Dutchess County* is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$10,000 to amend its current zoning law to address natural resources including aquifer protection and extractive operations. The committee recommends \$10,000.

Chairman McHenry called for a vote on the Greenway Grants and Compact Grants. On a motion from Sally Mazzarella (Sandy Galef second) the grants were unanimously approved.

Compact Community Updates

Mr. Keller noted that last year Dutchess County had updated their Compact Plan, and as communities adopted these updates we are informing the Board. The communities who have adopted these updates since the last Board meeting are: City of Beacon; Towns of Amenia, Beekman, Clinton, Dover, Hyde Park, LaGrange, Pine Plains, Red Hook; and Villages of Fishkill, Pawling, Red Hook, Tivoli, and Wappingers Falls.

Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

Call to Order

Chairman McHenry and Acting Chairman Burke called the National Heritage Area (NHA) meeting to order.

Economic Impact Study

Mr. Keller announced that the latest Economic Impact Study for the Greenway--National Heritage Area has been completed by Tripp Umbach. The study covers the years 2013-15 and shows an economic impact in excess of \$975 million/year, jobs directly created or induced of 9,888/year, and

tax revenue generated of nearly \$112 million/year. This is a return on investment to the taxpayer of \$102.72 for every dollar appropriated for the Greenway and National Heritage Area. Visitation averaged nearly 6.2 million visitors/year to our NHA historic sites during that time period.

National Heritage Area Heritage Development Grants Announcement

Mr. Keller stated that the availability of the National Heritage Area Development Grants would be announced on December 1, and awards would be made at the March meeting.

Hudson River Valley Ramble Update

Beth Campochiaro gave an overview of the 2017 Hudson River Valley Ramble, the 18th Annual Ramble for the Greenway and National Heritage Area. A new photographer, Suzy Allman, was hired this year, yielding some fantastic photos that will help market the event in the future. While participation numbers were still coming in, the good weather had contributed to good attendance. There were a total of 243 events this year, and it is thanks to our event leaders and partner organizations that there is such a wide variety of offerings each year. A special thank you to the NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Program, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and Empire State Development for their partnership.

Hudson River Line Mobile App Update

Mr. Keller updated the Board on this initiative. The firm OnCell has been selected as the developer for the standalone free app, which will also be a part of the National Park Service's OnCell App, which will help give us more exposure.

Acting Executive Director's Report

Mr. Keller reviewed his report which is appended to these minutes.

New Business/Public Comment

Priscilla Brendler, Executive Director of the Greater Hudson Heritage Network, gave an update on the workshops that the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area has helped them to sponsor and thanked the National Heritage Area for their support.

Colonel Jim Johnson noted that the latest edition of the Hudson River Valley Review contains an article by Chairman McHenry on the history of the Greenway.

Mr. Keller stated that the schedule of Board Meetings would be adjusted to avoid January and any potential conflicts with the State of the State. The new dates for 2018 will be March 21, 2018; June 13, 2018; September 12, 2018; and November 14, 2018.

Board Delegate Jaime Ethier noted that the Governor had recently announced the Downtown Revitalization Awards, and that two Hudson Valley communities, Kingston and Hudson, had received \$10 million each

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m. by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Campochiaro
Meeting Secretary