

HUDSON RIVER VALLEY GREENWAY
Meeting of the Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Inc.
March 9, 2018
Via Telephone
Minutes

Conservancy Members Present

Brown, Kristin Cole
Burke, Kevin, Acting Chairman
Daniels, Jane
Lanzetta, Cindy
McLaughlin, Jayne, Treasurer
O'Donnell, Jennifer, Secretary

Conservancy Members Present by Proxy

Griffen, Sara
Murray, Dennis
Olson, Sarah

Delegates Present

Davis, Bruce, Delegate for Commissioner NYS Office of General Services
Rooney, Frank, Delegate for Commissioner Agriculture & Markets
Taylor, Meghan, Delegate for Commissioner Empire State Development
Wolfanger, Jason, Delegate for Commissioner NYS Department of Transportation

Staff

Keller, Scott, S., Acting Executive Director
Beers, Andy, Empire State Trails Director
Campochiaro, Beth, Trails and Community Outreach Director
Day, Shannon, Administration and Grants Program Assistant

Welcome and Introductions

Acting Chairman Burke called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Acting Executive Director Scott Keller called the roll.

Agenda Review and Board Member Comments on Agenda

Acting Chairman Burke asked if there were any comments on the agenda and none were given.

Minutes of January 22, 2018 Conservancy Board Meeting

Acting Chairman Burke called for a vote on the minutes of the January 22, 2018 meeting. On a motion from Jane Daniels (Jayne McLaughlin second), the motion passed unanimously.

Provide Authorization to Declare the Draft Environmental Impact Statement Is Complete, Initiate 60 Day Public Comment Period, and Set Public Hearing Date for March 28, 2018 –Snow Date April 4, 2018

Mr. Keller reviewed the steps of the SEQR process to date, and explained the purpose of today's vote. The board is to vote to authorize that they declare the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Albany-Hudson Electric Trail complete, and to set a 60 day public comment period which would include a public hearing date on March 28, 2018, with a snow date of April 4, 2018.

Kitty Brown asked for clarification on the public input process. Andy Beers explained that the

Draft document (DEIS) would be announced as publicly available for comment for a 60 day period, and that the public hearing would be held on March 28th to take further public comment. The comments would be incorporated into the final environmental impact statement. Mr. Keller explained that the board would still be able to make comments as well during this public comment period.

Kitty Brown asked about whether the Greenway had insurance on the trail, and Mr. Beers answered that the Greenway Conservancy has a trail general liability policy and that the Albany-Hudson Electric Trail had been added to this policy.

Kitty Brown asked about the wetland mitigation process as she had noticed that there were wetlands on the trail route. Mr. Beers explained that they had already been working with NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to do a wetlands project on Schodack Island and that they would not be creating a new wetland, but rather working on a project that Parks was already in need of.

Kitty Brown asked about what kind of enforcement of trail rules would be used. Mr. Beers answered that it would be up to the individual municipalities through which the trail passes to enforce any laws, as they are already responsible for any activity on the property on which the trail will be.

Jane Daniels had to leave the call but had previously given her proxy to Acting Chairman Burke.

Kitty Brown asked for clarification about the SEQR process and Greenway being the lead agency. Mr. Keller explained that the Greenway is the applicant as well as the lead agency, under the public benefit corporation, the Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Inc.

Jennifer O'Donnell had a question about any areas of contamination, as she had read in the DEIS that at this time there will be no impacts to any contaminated areas. Andy Beers explained that there are no existing ties or rails left from the railroad, as they were all removed a long time ago.

Acting Chairman Burke called for a vote. On a motion from Jayne McLaughlin, and a second by Jennifer O'Donnell, the measure passed unanimously.

New Business

Andy Beers explained that construction on the trail would begin in 2019, with a target completion date of December 2020.

Future Meetings

There will be no votes on the SEQRA process at the next meeting of the Joint Boards of the Hudson River Valley Greenway on March 21, 2018. The public hearing date is set for March 28, 2018. The public comment period will close on May 8, 2018, and a phone meeting of the Conservancy Board will direct completion of a Final EIS.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m. by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Campochiaro
Meeting Secretary