

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.
June 12, 2019
Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Library and Museum
Hyde Park, NY 12538
Minutes

Attendance

Conservancy Members Present

Brown, Kristin Cole, Conservancy Member
Burke, Kevin, Conservancy Chairman
Daniels, Jane, Conservancy Member
Lanzetta, Cindy, Conservancy Member
Olson, Sarah, Conservancy Secretary
Tobin, Erin, Conservancy Member
Weiss, Daniela, Conservancy Member

Conservancy Members Present by Proxy

Jacks, Betsy, Conservancy Member
McLaughlin, Jayne, Conservancy Treasurer
Murray, Dennis, Conservancy Member
Yarabek, Stefan, Conservancy Member

Council Members Present

Aldrich, J. Winthrop, Council Member
Downey, Margaret (Meg), Dutchess County Council Member
Elliott, Robert, Westchester County Council Member
Head, Betty, Albany County Council Member
Mazzarella, Sally, Council Member
McHenry, Barnabas, Council Chairman
McNamara, Mary, Ulster County Council Member
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 Phone

Altieri, Vincent, Rockland County Council Member

Delegates Present

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

Rooney, Frank, Joint Deputy Delegate for Commissioner of NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets

Wolfanger, Jason, Joint Co-Delegate for Commissioner, NYS Department of Transportation

Wrafter, Eoin, Delegate for Conservancy Member Marcus Molinaro

Advisory Members Present

Bicking, Andy, Scenic Hudson

Greenway Staff Present

Arana, Cody, Assistant Event Coordinator

Beers, Andy, Empire State Trails Director

Campochiaro, Beth, Trails and Community Outreach Director

Jeanson, Daniel, Project Coordinator

Keller, Scott, Acting Executive Director

Call to Order

Chairman Kevin Burke called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

Acting Executive Director Scott Keller took a moment to recognize the passing of Dennis Suszkowski. Fran Dunwell spoke about Mr. Suszkowski, who was a marine biologist who worked in government and then as the Science Director at the Hudson River Foundation. He had served as the chair of the Estuary Advisory Committee since 1987, and Fran noted that he set a tone of cheerfulness and collaboration that will be missed very much.

Welcome New Board Members

Chairman Burke recognized a new Governor's appointment to the Conservancy Board, Daniela Weiss. Ms. Weiss has worked in Governor Cuomo's legislative office and is his appointment to the Board. Ms. Weiss noted that she was very pleased to be a part of the board.

Chairman Burke then recognized Erin Tobin, a pending Council appointment to the Conservancy Board. Ms. Tobin is the Vice President for Policy and Preservation at the Preservation League of New York State, and has been a part of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area Management Committee. Ms. Tobin noted that she was delighted to join the Board.

Chairmen Burke recognized Mary McNamara, who had been appointed to the Council by the Ulster County Executive. Ms. McNamara has worked with the Hudson River Watershed Alliance and the Esopus Creek Conservancy.

Presentations

Chairman Burke introduced James McElhinney, author of *Hudson Highlands: A Suite of Archival Digital Prints of Journal Paintings*. His presentation is appended to and a part of these minutes.

Chairman Burke then introduced Jean McKay, Director of Communications and Outreach at the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, to speak about the Erie Canalway Challenge. Her presentation is appended to and a part of these minutes.

Appointment and Re-Appointment of Conservancy Board Members

Chairman Barnabas McHenry called for a vote on the appointment of Erin Tobin to the Conservancy Board, and the reappointment of Betsy Jacks, Cindy Lanzetta, Dennis Murray and Stephan Yarabek to the Conservancy Board. On a motion from Linda von her Heide (Bob Elliott second) the appointment and re-appointments were made unanimously.

Agenda Review

Chairman Burke called for changes and additions to the agenda. Chairman Burke noted one addendum to the Conservancy portion of the agenda, a Teaching the Hudson Valley grant.

Appointment of Scott Keller as Executive Director of the Hudson River Valley Greenway and Director of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

Chairman Burke and Chairman McHenry called for a vote from both Boards on the appointment of Scott Keller as Executive Director of the Hudson River Valley Greenway and Director of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. On a motion from Sally Mazzarella (Meg Downey second) the appointment was unanimously approved. Executive Director Keller thanked the Board for their trust in him.

Approval of minutes of March 13, 2019 Combined Meeting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council, Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Inc. and Greenway Heritage Conservancy HRV, Inc.

Chairman Burke asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the March 13, 2019 Greenway Joint Meeting. On a motion from Sally Mazzarella (Sarah Olson second) the minutes of the March 13, 2019 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.

Minutes of June 7, 2019 Meeting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Grants Committee

On a motion from Meg Downey (Bob Elliott second) the minutes of the June 7, 2019 meeting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Grants Committee were unanimously approved.

Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Inc.

Call to Order

Chairman Burke called the Conservancy meeting to order.

Empire State Water Trail

Scott Keller updated the Board on the Empire State Water Trail. He noted that outreach was ongoing to the participating Water Trail organizations, that sub committees had been formed for Accessibility, Data and Website Development, Education and Marketing, and Signage and Branding. The website is in development as well as discussion of a logo.

Update on Empire State Trail

Andy Beers, Empire State Trail Director, gave an update on the Empire State Trail (EST). He noted that 80% of the construction on the Albany Hudson Electric Trail is now underway, with full completion due in 2020. There has been much activity on the entire EST, including 65 construction projects throughout the route: 1/3 under construction, 1/3 in the bidding process, and 1/3 in the design phase. There have been several groundbreaking along the trail, including in Saratoga County, Washington County, New Paltz and Amherst.

Resolution for Negative Declaration of Impact for Trailheads and Gateways on the Empire State Trail

Andy Beers explained that there are 26 trailheads and gateways on the Empire State Trail across the state that the Greenway is charged with completing. The EST staff, along with NYS Parks and the State Historic Preservation Office, had performed a SEQR review on the proposed projects. The two resolutions show that the Greenway has found the trailheads and gateways will have no negative environmental impacts, as they are being constructed on already disturbed areas such as parking lots.

Greenway Trail Designation

Beth Campochiaro described the new trail designation of the Hyde Park Trail. Portions of the trail had been previously designated, but the net gain in trail mileage is 37.1 miles. The trail is unique in that it is a Riverside Trail with ownership by the National Park Service, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Town of Hyde Park, Winnakee Land Trust, and Scenic Hudson Land Trust, as well as private ownership. Ms. Campochiaro thanked all the organizations involved and especially Kathleen Davis, Hyde Park Recreation Director and Hyde Park Trails Committee Chair, and Karl Beard of the National Park Service. Andy Bicking of Scenic Hudson remarked how it had been a wonderful collaboration on the trail.

Approval of Teaching the Hudson Valley Grant Application

Scott Keller explained that the Teaching the Hudson Valley (THV) staff had applied for and received a Parks in Every Classroom SPARK grant for \$1,400. The Board needs to vote to approve the application and acceptance of the grant award.

Chairman Burke called for a vote on the Trailheads and Gateways SEQR, Trail Designation, and THV grant. On a motion from Jane Daniels (Kitty Brown second) the resolutions were unanimously approved.

Approval of Annual Budget

Scott Keller presented a number of budgets, including the PARIS budget for this year through the 2021 fiscal year and 3 years out, which are required for all public authorities. The Board had also received the budgets for the Conservancy, Council and NHA for review. Both Boards would vote on this motion.

Chairman Burke called for a vote on the budgets, and on a motion from Wint Aldrich (Sally Mazzarella second) the budgets were unanimously approved.

Trail Grants Available

Scott Keller announced that the Greenway Conservancy Trail Grant Program Applications were now available. Trail grants and National Heritage Area grants will now be offered twice a year instead of annually.

Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council

Call to Order

Chairman Barnabas McHenry called the Council meeting to order.

Hudson River Valley Greenway Grant Awards

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

Greenway Planning Grants Program

The *Town of Greenwich, Washington County*, is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$10,000 for an update of the Historic Hudson-Hoosic Rivers Partnership's Stewardship Plan. The Committee recommends \$10,000.

The *Town of Saugerties, Ulster County*, is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$10,000 for an update of the Town and Village of Saugerties Comprehensive Plan and amendment to the Zoning Laws. The Committee recommends \$10,000.

Greenway Compact Grants Program

The *Town of Union Vale, Dutchess County*, is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$6,375 to align the Master Plan with future planning needs and update zoning. The Committee recommends \$6,375.

Chairman McHenry called for a vote on the Greenway Planning and Compact Grants. On a motion from Bob Elliott (Meg Downey second) the grants were unanimously approved.

Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

Call to Order

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

National Heritage Area Heritage Development Grant Awards

Mr. Keller reviewed the grant applications received for the National Heritage Area Heritage Development Grants program and the Grants Committee recommendations.

Bard College (Montgomery Place) is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$5,000 for the Fisher Center Presents Free Outdoor Performances at Montgomery Place. The Committee recommends \$5,000.

Boscobel House and Gardens is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$5,000 for Boscobel Signage Revitalization. The Committee recommends \$5,000.

The FASNY Museum of Firefighting is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$1,750 for a Marketing Expansion Project. The Committee recommends \$1,750.

Historic Cherry Hill is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$5,000 for "Swept Clean": A Dramatic Story of Loss and Restoration in Victorian America. The Committee recommends \$5,000.

Huguenot Historical Society is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$5,000 for Picturing Huguenot Street: Three Historical Paintings that Portray a National Historic Landmark District Over Time. The Committee recommends \$5,000.

The Saugerties Lighthouse is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$5,000 for the Saugerties Lighthouse Sesquicentennial: Esopus Creek Puppet Suite. The Committee recommends \$5,000.

The Thomas Cole National Historic Site is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$5,000 for Bringing to life the home of the founding Hudson River Painter, to create new interactive installations and restore Cole's interior designs on the second floor. The Committee recommends \$5,000

The Village of Kinderhook is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$1,325 for "Discover Historic Kinderhook: A Walking and Bicycling Tour." The Committee recommends \$1,325.

Walkway Over the Hudson is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$5,000 for Interpretive Digital Signage on the Walkway. The Committee recommends \$5,000.

The Westchester County Historical Society is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$20,000 for the Clio App of all National Register Sites in Westchester County. The Committee recommends \$7,500.

Betsy Jacks recused herself from the vote on the Thomas Cole House grant. Chairman McHenry and Meg Downey recused themselves from the vote on the Boscobel grant.

Chairman Burke called for a vote on the recommended grants. On a motion from Sally Mazzarella (Jane Daniels second), the grants were unanimously approved.

2019 Hudson River Valley Ramble

Beth Campochiaro noted that this year would be the 20th Anniversary of the Hudson River Valley Ramble. The dates for this year are August 31-September 1, 7-8, 14-15, 21-22 and 28-29. Event registration opened in April, and the deadline for appearing in the printed Ramble booklet was extended to June 14th.

Henry Knox Cannon Trail

Scott Keller announced that on May 23rd, Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan joined the Greenway, and staff from Congressman Paul Tonko, Senator Neil Breslin, and Assemblywoman Patricia Fahey's offices to celebrate the restoration of the historic marker commemorating Col. Henry Knox's arduous 56-day journey from Ticonderoga to Boston with 59-cannon. The marker was removed fifty years ago for the construction of I-787 and subsequently lost. Using private funding only, the Hudson River

Valley National Heritage Area, working with the City of Albany, placed a new monument and wayside exhibit at Jennings Landing in the Corning Preserve.

Hudson River Train Tour App

Scott Keller announced that the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area's Hudson River Train Tour App had been awarded the Museum Association of New York's Excellence in Digital Design Award on April 8th in Cooperstown. He noted that the NHA is proud to receive this award from such an important partner.

Acting Executive Director's Report

Mr. Keller thanked the staff for their hard work. His Acting Executive Director's Report is appended to and a part of these minutes.

New Business/Public Comment

Priscilla Brendler from Greater Hudson Heritage Network thanked the National Heritage Area for their sponsorship of the 2019 workshop series, Harnessing the Power of Stories, which will help sites to tell their stories more effectively. The next workshop would be held on June 25th.

Colonel Jim Johnson of the Hudson River Valley Institute thanked Scott Keller and Dan Jeanson for their work on the Henry Knox Cannon Trail markers. He noted that a marker has been installed at Crown Point. He also noted that the 50th Anniversary of Woodstock conference would be taking place at Marist on the 13th and 14th of June.

Lydia Biskup noted that a Senate Bill was introduced in regard to e-bikes and e-scooters, and wondered if the Greenway had been involved. Scott Keller noted that most likely the Hudson River Greenway in Manhattan was involved, but the Greenway is unfamiliar with the bill and thus has not taken any position.

Jennifer Carlquist noted that on July 6th Boscobel would be celebrating Independence Day with an orchestral performance ending with West Point fireworks.

Sally Mazzarella noted that we are in Hyde Park and today we designated the Hyde Park Trail, mentioning that 40 years ago trails were beginning to be talked about. Winnakee Land Trust took initiative with trails and it is quite an accomplishment that this trail system has been completed.

Future Meetings

There is a change to the meeting schedule for 2019. The 2019 Joint Greenway Board meetings will be:

October 9, 2019

December 11, 2019

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m. by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Campocharo
Meeting Secretary

***Inventing the American Landscape:
Art & Nature in the Hudson River Valley***

A talk delivered to a meeting of:
the Hudson Valley Greenway Conservancy
Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Inc.
Greenway Heritage Conservancy HRV, Inc.
Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson Valley River Valley National Heritage Area

By

James Lancel McElhinney © 2019
Author, Visual Artist, Owner: Needlewatcher Editions
Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Library Museum
June 12, 2019. 10:00 A.M.

Let me open by expressing my sincere thanks to Barnabas McHenry and Kevin Burke for inviting me to address this august gathering. Today I want to talk to you about two big, intertwined ideas. First, that American landscape art – manifested through drawing, painting and prints -- was born in the Hudson Valley. Second, that from the beginning the artist's appreciation of scenery went hand in hand with the mission of public access and the values of environmental responsibility. George Perkins Marsh, an early voice in the American conservation movement observed that,

“Vision is a faculty, seeing is an art”

Few today know that one of the great American drawing academies was founded at West Point. When Sylvanus Thayer became superintendent in 1818, he specified two hours of drawing a day, for all second and third-year cadets. Apart from knowing how to produce mechanical drawings and maps, military officers were expected to know how to think visually—not just to produce chorographic views of new territories, but also to be able to discern anomalies and

changes in the terrain, which could inform their decisions under fire. Thayer's drawing-master was French miniaturist Thomas Gimbrede, who noted that,

“Drawing is all curved lines and straight lines. Anyone can draw a curved line. Anyone can draw a straight line. Therefore, anyone can draw”

These were heady times in American schoolrooms. Reformers like Rembrandt Peale, Hector Humphreys, Horace Mann and others promoted universal education, including drawing and penmanship. A working-person might know how to read a book, but not their master's longhand. Teaching cursive handwriting to all was another way to level the playing-field.

Peale observed that drawing and writing were reciprocal skills.

“Writing is nothing more than drawing the forms of letters. Drawing is nothing else than writing the forms of things”.

Horace Mann called drawing a moral force. As the Young Republic began to form its identity, public demand for scenic vistas fueled a publishing boom—at first in Philadelphia, then soon after in New York. Artists like William and Thomas and William Birch, Charles Willson Peale, Thomas Doughty and others specialized in river views—at first along the Schuylkill and Delaware, and later the Hudson Valley.

Within a couple of decades, the great North River had become a magnet for landscape artists.

A young Briton who had emigrated to Ohio, before moving to New York produced this painting of Fort Putnam in 1826, giving birth to what is known today at the Hudson River School. His name was Thomas Cole.

Five years earlier, Irish painter William Guy Wall and author John Agg had traveled from what was then believed to be the source of the Hudson River in the Adirondacks to New York Harbor.

Over the next four years, Wall and printmaker John Hill produced a remarkable series of hand-colored etchings, which were published with travel-narratives by Agg.

The Hudson River Portfolio is divided between canonical picturesque views and natural wonders, including a preponderance of waterfalls. I wondered why. And then it occurred to me that people looking at these images in 1820 might have seen more than just thrilling scenery. Some would have recognized these falls as untapped hydropower, perfectly suited to manufacturing.

While it is only a theory, it is possible that some of Wall's backers were looking to promote commercial development in the upper Hudson Valley. Tourism would not develop in these regions for another couple of decades, after canals and railroads had penetrated the wilderness.

Years later, two thousand miles to the west, upon meeting a group of prospectors entering the Boulder Valley in central Colorado, an Arapahoe chief named Niwot is quoted as saying,

“People seeing the beauty of this valley will want to stay, and their staying will be the undoing of the beauty.”

Indeed, the steamboats and railroads that delivered travelers to upriver resorts, Lakes George and Champlain, to Adirondack camps and the White Mountains an American Grand Tour, dependent upon the same industrial economy that poisoned wild rivers and filled the air with soot from coal-burning vehicles, factories and cities. In his painting of the Lackawanna Valley, George Inness shows us the fate of the forest—a field of stumps. The trees have been recycled as fence-rails and railroad ties. Distant Steamtown, with its fuming chimneys and brick-bound dystopia recalls the question posed by William Blake,

“And was Jerusalem builded here
among these dark Satanic Mills?”

In his epic poem *The Lament of the Forest*, painter Thomas Cole described the rape of the land, stripped of its beauty by human greed. Here are a few lines, which presage Richard Powers’s Pulitzer-Prize winning novel *The Overstory*.

*“Echo, whose voice had answered to the call
Of thunder or of winds, or to the cry
Of cataracts — sound of sylvan habitants
Or song of birds — uttered responses sharp
And dissonant; the axe unresting smote
Our reverend ranks, and crashing branches lashed
The ground, and mighty trunks, the pride of years,
Rolled on the groaning earth with all their umbrage.*

By the time Cole’s student Frederic Church painted Niagara, the falls had already become a well-established tourist destination. Artists like Albert Bierstadt and Thomas Moran, who had accompanied railroad and mineral surveys of the American West helped sell the idea of national parks to Congress. Cole’s lament and George Perkins Marsh’s dire predictions helped shape the thinking of subsequent activists like John Muir, John Burroughs and Rachel Carson. If we are to preserve nature’s treasures, we must continue to develop new ways to bring human beings into deeper contact with nature, without consuming it—except as personal experience, while *leaving no trace*. One need not be an artist in order to benefit from writing, drawing, and journal-keeping. These are proven methods for transforming experience into knowledge. Pulling into a highway scenic overlook to snap a few pictures avoids any significant

engagement with nature, which can be its own best advocate, if only people will take time to interact with it. Clean rivers, heritage itineraries, historic sites, improved hiking and rail-trails, and open spaces, let citizens reacquaint themselves with nature.

The more profound their experience, the more likely they will be to discover how deeply they care about these resources, and perhaps take steps to protect them. Over the years, many artists have taken up the cause. Explorers and artists were always pathfinders. In many ways, they were the first tourists. They showed the world what America looked like.

Following their example—perhaps at an easel, or with sketchbook in hand—we can deepen our experience of nature, enriching our encounters with all of its wonders.

With the rise of social media, and a new revolution in printed matter underway, there are countless opportunities for nature conservancies and preservationists to partner with the arts. Environmental humanities programs at University of Pennsylvania, Colby College, and elsewhere are rapidly discovering that the arts—not just as individual expression, but more as personal engagement—can provide common ground between science, history, and the societies they serve. This was true in the nineteenth century. It is still true today.

The American landscape was invented in the Hudson Valley—a vision being reborn today.

Foregrounding the arts in new initiatives like the Empire State Trail not only honors that legacy.

It will assure their success. Thank you.

TRACING HISTORY

CANALWAY CHALLENGE

TRACKING MILES

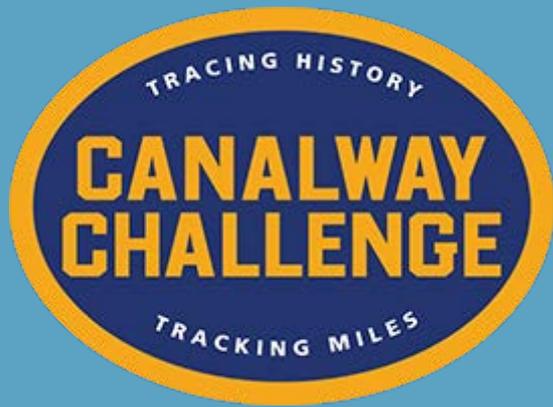
Discover all you
can do along
New York's canals!

canalwaychallenge.org

Make no small plans!

The Erie Canal is a national symbol of bold vision, perseverance, and achievement of an extraordinary feat.





- Improve wellness
- Get more people outdoors
- Solidify the corridor as a prime destination for world-class recreation



Participating is easy and free

1. **Register online** and choose your mileage goal.
2. **Track your miles** on the waterway or Canalway Trail.
3. **Upload your photo finish** to earn recognition.

#canalwaychallenge



Rack up the Regions

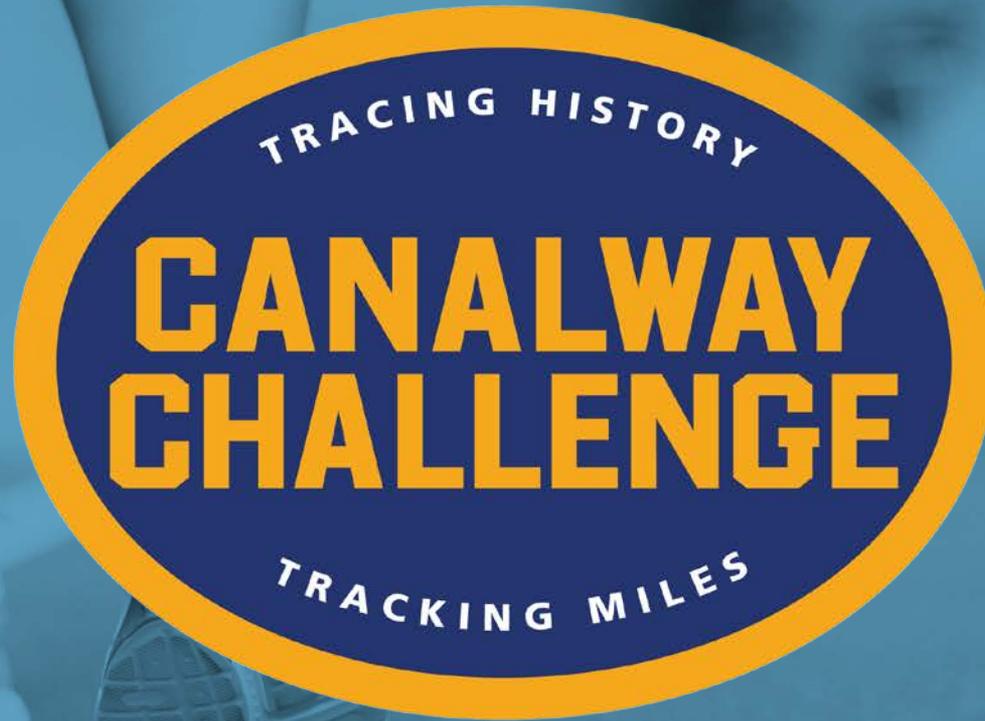
Buffalo to Rochester • Rochester to Syracuse • Syracuse to Little Falls • Little Falls to Albany

Also includes: Champlain Canal • Cayuga-Seneca Canal • Oswego Canal





Sign up!



CanalwayChallenge.org

Hudson River Valley Greenway
Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area
Acting Executive Director's Report
June 12, 2019
Scott Keller

Empire State Water Trail

In his 2019 State of the State, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that to complement the Governor's Empire State Trail, a sister water trail will be developed, linking together over 1,700 miles of existing water trails, on navigable State waterways, with consistent branding and website development. The Hudson River Valley Greenway has been asked to take the lead on this project. Scott Keller, Beth Campochiaro, and Cody Arana are working on this exciting project, that is the culmination of 25+ years of water trail work by the Greenway and many public and private sector partners around the state.

In April and May outreach to water trails around the state occurred, with positive feedback. At the recommendation of our agency and private sector partners, several steering committees were formed encompassing: Accessibility, Data/Website Development, Education/Marketing, and Signage/Branding. On May 24th the Greenway hosted the first meetings of the Data/Website Development and Signage/Branding sub-committees. Items discussed included establishing the committees' purpose, identifying and prioritizing tasks, and discussing the data necessary to be collected to form the desired map on the website and development of a logo.

Empire State Trail (EST)

The Empire State Trail team, **Andy Beers**, **Paul Glesta**, and **Dara Morin** continue working to meet the 2020 deadline to implement the EST. A website for the trail is available at [Empire State Trail link](#). We have released an Empire State Trail Plan, an Empire State Trail Design Guide, and an Empire State Trail User Projection.

The most exciting development is that construction has started on the Albany Hudson Electric Trail in both Rensselaer and northern Columbia counties! National Grid will also be undertaking a maintenance project on its utility lines in selected locations this spring. The Greenway's target date for completing construction of the AHET Trail is November 2020. Visit [Albany Hudson Electric Trail link](#) for more information.



Additionally, a grand opening celebration of a segment of EST in the Village of Schuylerville, Saratoga County was held June 4th.

The Maybrook Trailway (previously called Beacon Line Rail Trail), running from Brewster to Hopewell Junction is being constructed by Metro North Railroad. A final concept plan has been released for this segment of the trail as well. Visit [Maybrook Trailway link](#) for more information.

The NYS Department of Transportation has released a draft concept plan for the on-road routes. It is available: [NYS DOT Empire State Trail link](#).

Tower of Victory Celebration



An estimated one thousand people joined state and federal officials in celebrating the grand reopening of the Tower of Victory at Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site on April 27, 2019. Chairmen Barney McHenry and Kevin Burke and Acting Executive Director Scott Keller participated in the ribbon cutting, with Chairman Burke being the first person to ascend the newly reopened Tower. Chairman McHenry and late Congressman Maurice Hinchey were Co-Chairs of the sustained effort to restore the Tower.

The view south on Grand Reopening Day at the Tower of Victory in Newburgh.

Hudson River Train Tour App Wins Museum Association of New York Award

The National Heritage Area's Hudson River Train Tour App was awarded the MANY Excellence in Digital Design Award on April 8th in Cooperstown. The awards committee said, "... this is one of the best things happening in our state and should get recognition for how it connects the public to our history and heritage." The NHA is proud to receive this award from such an important partner.

Henry Knox Cannon Trail Rededication, Albany

On May 23, Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan joined the Greenway, and staff from Congressman Paul Tonko, Senator Neil Breslin, and Assemblywoman Patricia Fahey's offices to celebrate the restoration of the historic marker commemorating Col. Henry Knox's arduous 56-day journey from Ticonderoga to Boston with 59-cannon. The marker was removed fifty years ago for the construction of I-787 and subsequently lost. Using private funding only, the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, working with the City of Albany, placed a new monument and wayside exhibit at Jennings Landing in the Corning Preserve.

The event was augmented by the presence of many Heritage Area partners, Col (Ret) James Johnson, Military Historian for the Hudson River Valley, and Schuyler's 2nd/Albany Militia, who provided a rolling musket fire, ending with a cannon firing.

These dedicated reenactors then generously allowed dignitaries, led by Mayor Sheehan, to fire the cannon as well. The barrel of the cannon was recast from a cannon recovered from the bottom of Lake Champlain, off one of General Benedict Arnold's warships.



Acting Director Scott Keller firing the Schuyler's 2nd/Albany Militia cannon.

International Trails Symposium, April 27 to May 2, 2019, Syracuse

The Greenway was well represented at American Trail's 2019 International Trails Symposium. From Cody Arana being named an Emerging Trail Leader and receiving extra days of training, to Andy Beers being a featured kick off speaker, as well as joining Beth Campochiaro and Scott Keller as presenters on the Empire State of Trails panel, the Greenway/Empire State Trail presence was felt throughout this event.

Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney successfully spearheaded an effort to rename our Heritage Area after the late Congressman Maurice Hinchey. Congressman Hinchey was directly responsible for the getting the Hudson Valley named a National Heritage Area. We have updated our website to reflect this important change. [Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area link](#)

250th Anniversary of the Revolutionary War

As the 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War quickly approaches in 2025, New York State is getting ready to celebrate! New York State Historian Devin Landry convened a kickoff stakeholders meeting at Saratoga National Historical Park on May 31st. In the first of three sessions across the state, Mr. Landry asked for input from the stakeholders, and in particular from the National Heritage Areas present. Following the other two meetings, Mr. Landry will summarize comments received and make plans for next steps.

Staff Activities

In addition to those activities mentioned above, staff also worked on these projects:

Grants and Finance Coordinator **Shannon Day** has returned from maternity leave and the rest of us, collectively, let out a deep sigh of relief! Shannon resumed her many and varied internal administrative tasks and led the way on our annual internal controls certification, completed the bi-annual Domestic Violence in the Workplace report, attended a building tenant meeting, and participated in training for the state's new procurement system. Shannon also has begun enhanced training in the Greenway's finance systems and assisted with audit preparations.

Trails and Community Outreach Director **Beth Campochiaro** and Assistant Event Coordinator **Cody Arana** are working hard preparing for the **20th annual** Hudson River Valley Ramble in September, and also assisted **Scott Keller** on the Empire State Water Trail and attended Hudson River Harbor Safety Committee meetings.

Cody and Project Director **Dan Jeanson** represented the Greenway and NHA at the annual New York By Rail Tourism event at Penn Central.

Cody also prepared three months of newsletters, received social media training to help with his ongoing social media upkeep duties. Cody also updated our lists of Chief elected officials, and congress, state senate, and assembly members

Beth Campochiaro and **Dan Jeanson** presented funding opportunities from the Greenway and NHA at Pace University's *Got Funding? Opportunities for Supporting Conservation in the Hudson Valley*. They were part of panel of presenters, including DEC, and the Land Trust Alliance.

Beth Campochiaro also attended a Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Heritage Trail meeting with **Scott Keller** and the NYS Trails Council meeting in April and is undertaking enhanced training in the Greenway's finance systems.

Dan Jeanson also continued working on updates to the Hudson River Train Tour app, and oversaw the installation of the Knox Cannon Trail wayside exhibit in Albany and planned the press event. Dan attended mid-Hudson Region Economic Development meetings and a Hudson River Estuary meeting,

Acting Executive Director **Scott Keller** attended an Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor meeting on the NYS Canalway Water Trail, prepared for and conducted the annual independent audit, made a presentation on the Hudson River Harbor Safety Committee to the Historic Hudson-Hoosic Rivers Partnership, and participated in a selection team to choose a vendor to develop the Empire State Trail website.

As always, the entire staff participated in reviewing grants applications for Greenway Council Planning grants. Shannon, Beth, and Dan are working with communities and

non-profits to resolve expired grants. Our staff works with these grantees to extend grant performance times, complete grant projects, or return funds that will not be used.

Teaching the Hudson Valley

Michael Zwelling and Tisha Dunstan continue work on the Teaching the Hudson Valley Program. Alongside Chief of Interpretation Scott Rector, planning for the future of this program continues.

Grants Program Update

Grants Completed Since the March 13, 2019 Board Meeting						
Grant Type	Grantee	Project	Awarded	Match	Award Date	Completion Date
Conservancy	Village of Wappingers Falls	Lower Wappinger Creek Community Boathouse	\$20,000.00	\$28,175.36	10/18/2017	5/7/2019
Council	Village of Green Island	The Black Bridge Rail Trail Connection Project	\$7,500.00	\$26,429.10	1/13/2015	3/21/2019
Council	Town of New Scotland	2017 Comprehensive Plan Update	\$10,000.00	\$14,900.00	2/1/2017	5/17/2019
NHA	National Maritime Historical Society	Sea History's Guide to Maritime Programs & Cultural Sites	\$5,000.00	\$5,151.37	3/11/2015	3/12/2019
NHA	Richard B. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts at Bard College	"The State at Montgomery Place" A Public Performing Arts Initiative	\$5,000.00	\$7,346.92	4/25/2018	4/18/2019
NHA	Thomas Cole Historic House	In the Footseteps of the Hudson River School: Finding Inspiration in Landscape	\$5,000.00	\$5,063.63	4/25/2018	5/17/2019
NHA	Boscobel House and Garden	Boscobel's Landscape and Landmarks Tour	\$1,456.91	\$2,279.98	5/9/2018	5/29/2019
NHA	John Burroughs Association	Slabsides Gateway Experience-Entrance Signs Project	\$5,000.00	\$12,450.00	5/24/2018	6/4/2019
		Totals	\$58,956.91	\$101,796.36		

Grants Awarded at the March 13, 2019 Board Meeting

Grant Type	Grantee	Project	Awarded	Award Date
Council	Town of Philipstown	Comprehensive Plan Update	\$15,000	3/13/2019
Council	Town of Esopus	Land Use Law Update	\$10,000	3/13/2019
Council	Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson	Comprehensive Plan Update	\$10,000	3/13/2019
Council	Village of Piermont	Sustainable Piermont Action Plan	\$10,000	3/13/2019
		Totals	\$45,000	