

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 21, 2020
Via Telephone and WebEx
MINUTES

Attendance

Conservancy Members Present

Brown, Kristin, Conservancy Member
Burke, Kevin, Conservancy Chairman
Daniels, Jane, Conservancy Member
Jacks, Betsy, Conservancy Member
Idleman, Sara, Conservancy Member
Lanzetta, Cindy, Conservancy Member
McLaughlin, Jayne, Conservancy Treasurer
Weiss, Daniela, Conservancy Member
Williams, Jeanne, Conservancy Member

Conservancy Members Present by Proxy

Murray, Dennis, Conservancy Member
Olson, Sarah, Conservancy Member

Council Members Present

Aldrich, J. Winthrop, Council Member
Alteri, Vincent, Rockland County Council Member
Castillo, Carla, Council Member
Downey, Margaretta, Dutchess County Council Member
Elliott, Robert, Westchester County Council Member, Meeting Chair
Galef, Hon. Sandra, Council Member
Head, Betty, Albany County Council Member
McNamara, Mary, Ulster County Council Member
Schiafo, Richard, Greene County Council Member
Smith, Michelle, Putnam County Council Member
von der Heide, Linda, Rensselaer County Council Member

Council Members Present by Proxy

Ensinger, Lori, Council Member

Delegates Present

Cooper, Linda, Delegate for Commissioner, NYS Department of Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation
Dunwell, Fran, Joint Co-Delegate for Commissioner, NYS Department of Environmental

Conservation

Ethier, Jaime, Joint Deputy Delegate for Secretary of State

Hingle, Christina, Delegate for Erin Tobin, Conservancy Member

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 Marcus Molinaro, Conservancy Member

Advisory Members Present

Bicking, Andy, Scenic Hudson

Greenway Staff Present

Beers, Andy, Empire State Trails Director

Campochiaro, Beth, Trails and Community Outreach Director

Day, Shannon, Director of Operations

Jeanson, Daniel, Project Director

Keller, Scott, Executive Director

Call to Order

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

Agenda Review

Chairman Burke called for any comments on the agenda. Scott Keller noted that the new Superintendent of the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Site, Amy Bracewell, would be speaking prior to the approval of the minutes due to a previous commitment.

IV. Introduction of New Roosevelt-Vanderbilt Superintendent

Scott Keller introduced Amy Bracewell, the new Superintendent at the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites, as well as Val-Kill and Martin Van Buren National Historic Site. Amy Bracewell has been with the Park Service since 2007, working at Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park, and at Saratoga National Historical Park since 2015.

Amy has worked with the Greenway and National Heritage Area on the Champlain Canalway Trail/EST and the Revolutionary War 250th. Mr. Keller noted that Ms. Bracewell has been extremely supportive of the Hudson River Valley NHA efforts.

Ms. Bracewell thanked Mr. Keller and the Board and noted that she had been meeting so many people from the community and was very excited to work with everyone. She noted that she has been a great fan of the Greenway and its programs and wants to find ways to help promote the Greenway and National Heritage Area in her new position.

Minutes of July 22, 2020 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 then asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the July 22, 2020 Greenway Joint Meeting. On a motion from Bob Elliott, (Sarah Idelman second) the minutes of the July 22, 2020 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 September 29, 2020 Meeting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Grants Committee

Chairman Burke called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 29, 2020 meeting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Grants Committee. On a motion from Meg Downey (Jayne McLaughlin second) the minutes of the September 29, 2020 meeting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Grants Committee were unanimously approved.

Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council

Call to Order

Meeting Chair Bob Elliott called the Council meeting to order.

Council Grants Discussion

Mr. Keller noted that at this time the Council has been authorized to pay claims on grants that have already been awarded. However, the Council does not have the authority to award new grants.

Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Inc.

Call to Order

Chairman Burke called the Conservancy meeting to order.

Tribute to Matthew Bender, IV

The former Chair of the Conservancy, Matthew Bender, IV, recently passed away at the age of 88. Chairman Burke read comments prepared by Board Member Wint Aldrich and they are included below as part of the minutes.

“A Tribute to Matthew Bender IV, Second Chair of the Conservancy

When Matthew Bender died at 88 in Albany on February 23 one of the Hudson Valley's most respected civic leaders and philanthropists passed from the scene. Matt's commitment to cultural preservation in the larger Capitol Region led him to leadership roles at the Albany Institute of History and Art, the Preservation League of New York State, the Olana Partnership, WMHT public broadcasting and the New York State Commission on the Restoration of the Capitol, among many other organizations. He was the founder and long-time supporter of the Historic Albany Foundation.

In 1995 Matt accepted appointment as the second Chair of the Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, and during the following five years, working with Executive Directors David Sampson and Maggie Vinciguerra and Council Chair Barney McHenry, he provided efficient direction to the organization in a formative period. Looking back from the vantage point of the acknowledged success of the Greenway organizations today, we pay tribute to Matthew Bender's contributions to our early efforts on behalf of the Valley and his many enduring benefactions throughout the region.

Wint Aldrich Joint Greenway Meeting, 21 October 2020”

Scott Keller, Kitty Brown, and Bob Elliott all offered their own remembrances of Mr. Bender.

Update on Empire State Trail

Andy Beers, Empire State Trail Director, gave an update on the progress of the Empire State Trail (EST). He noted that trail construction has continued to advance on schedule, with half of the 58 projects complete and the other half on track to be completed by December 31, 2020.

Mr. Beers also said that work on the 36-mile Albany-Hudson Electric Trail is on track to be completed by mid-November, with 11 miles complete. He noted that a great deal of trail use has been reported across the country due to the pandemic and people's desire to get out in a socially distant setting. The Governor's office is still discussing options for announcing the opening of the trail, which will likely occur in Spring 2021 with a series of events. Jeanne Williams noted that the Champlain Canalway Trail Working Group planned to promote that section of the EST as a winter recreational destination as well, for snowmobiling, snow shoeing and cross-country skiing.

Work also continues on the EST website, which will feature interactive mapping and detailed information on all sections of the trail, including nearby attractions. The website is expected to “go live” shortly.

Incoming Grants for Approval

Mr. Keller explained that the Conservancy has two incoming grants that require the Board's approval:

- Kingdom of the Netherlands Grant for Dutch Native American Brochure - \$25,000
As part of an ongoing effort to produce a Dutch and Native American brochure, the staff reached out to the Dutch Consulate and applied for a Dutch Culture USA – Cultural Contribution Award. The Conservancy was awarded the maximum of \$25,000, which is the first grant the Greenway has received from a source not based in the US.
- NYS Thruway Authority Grant for Piermont Marsh Restoration with HRNERR \$150,000
As part of the Mario M. Cuomo Tappan Zee Bridge construction, the NYS Thruway

Authority is required to complete a number of environmental mitigation projects. One of those projects is for the restoration and protection of the Piermont Marsh, one of four marshes designated as part of the HRNERR system. The Greenway has been administering Research and Monitoring grants for HRNERR for the past 24 years. The Greenway will receive a 10% administration fee for administering the grant.

Chairman Burke called for a vote on receiving the grants. On a motion from Jane Daniels (Betsy Jacks second), the Dutch grant was unanimously accepted and the staff was authorized to continue pursuing the Thruway Authority grant.

Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

Call to Order

Chairman Burke and Meeting Chair Bob Elliott called the National Heritage Area (NHA) meeting to order.

Virtual Hudson Valley Writers' Grand Tour, October 11-25, 2020

Scott Keller explained that one of the Teaching the Hudson Valley projects is a Virtual Hudson Valley Writers' Tour. This audience-centered self-paced virtual writing program features 360-degree images of the Beatrix Farrand Garden at Bellefield, Home of Franklin Delano Roosevelt National Historic Site Home Garden, Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site Formal Gardens, Edward Hopper House Museum and Study Center, and Olana State Historic Site. Each Hudson Valley site has writing prompts, historical context, questions to think about, site information, close-up views, and more

National Heritage Area Heritage Development Grants

Mr. Keller reviewed the grants that had been reviewed and recommended by the Grants Committee.

The Katonah Museum of Art is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$4,800 for Programming and Outreach for the Exhibition Arrivals. The Committee recommends \$4,800.

Mount Gulian is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$3,612.35 for Remote/Off-site Interpretation of Mount Gulian Historic Site. The Committee recommends \$3,600.

The Natural Heritage Trust on behalf of Palisades Interstate Park Commission is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$2,779.69 for Enhancing Digital Content Creation Capacity at Multiple State Historic Sites. The Committee recommends \$2,770.00.

Old Dutch Church of Kingston is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$2,000 for Permanent Historical Signage in Old Dutch Church Churchyard. The Committee recommends \$2,000.

Revolutionary Westchester 250 is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$5,000 for Teatown's Environmental Education Distance Learning Program. The Committee recommends \$5,000.

Chairman Burke called for a vote on the Heritage Development Grants. On a motion from Assemblywoman Sandra Galef (Sara Idleman second), the grants were unanimously approved.

Executive Director's Report

Scott Keller gave his Executive Director's report. His remarks are included below.

"I made a brief presentation on last month's NHA Best Practices call on our, mostly abbreviated, Women's History Outreach for the Centennial.

I have begun working with the HV Center for Veterans Reintegration in Kingston, first providing technical assistance on a Mount Marcy to Manhattan kayak trip and following up with discussions on how we might cooperate further, including their becoming trip leaders on the Ramble, both for veterans and for fundraising. The three paddlers that started, and completed the trip were all disabled combat veterans, 2 marines and 1 army vet. I had a chance to meet them when they were in Albany and they are an impressive group. And not just because they made their own boats. I suspect they may put in appearance on the Empire State Trail sometime in the next few years.

For the past few months I have been receiving weekly reports from NPS on national travel and visitation trends. For the week of 10/10, the latest info I have, Tourism Road Trip volume is only off 5.5% and continuing a trend of climbing that has been pretty consistent since early April, when this mode of travel was off over 70%. In fact the only time this trend regressed was in the first couple of weeks after Labor Day, possibly associated with parents adjusting to/acquiring equipment for schooling at home. Unfortunately travel spending is much more depressed, down 41%, indicating trips are short, close to home, and low cost. Other numbers are not so encouraging: The number of people screened at TSA checkpoints is down 65%. Hotel and flight bookings are down 62% domestically and 77% internationally. These numbers suggest that, for now, we should continue targeting our advertising to the Hudson Valley.

The staff continues to adapt and shine in this new working environment. They have all been productive, I think all of us have been into the office on at least a couple of occasions. Three of us are going in at least weekly and I want to call out Shannon Day and Dan Jeanson, who are the other two—Shannon opens mail and scans it to the recipient. She also sends out water trail guide and map purchases. Shannon handles the other rare administrative functions that must be done in the office. Dan mails out our NHA brochure requests. Our initiative to transition to electronic files, begun three years ago, has been extraordinarily helpful in reducing the time we need to go into the office. All of the staff deserves credit for adopting that change wholeheartedly. We have had to halt our initiative to scan our older paper files, but by scanning with active files first,

enough has been done, that almost no one has had to go into the office to retrieve/scan paper files during the pandemic.”

Future Meetings

The final 2020 Joint Greenway Board meeting will be:

- December 9, 2020

The 2021 meetings are scheduled for

- March 10, 2021
- June 10, 2021
- October 13, 2021
- December 8, 2021

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m. by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Campochiaro
Meeting Secretary