

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.  
December 9, 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 Vice-Chair  
Olson, Sarah, Conservancy Secretary  
McLaughlin, Jayne, Conservancy Treasurer  
Tobin, Erin, Conservancy Member  
Weiss, Daniela, Conservancy Member  
Williams, Jeanne, Conservancy Member

**Conservancy Members Present by Proxy**

Murray, Dennis, Conservancy Member  
Yarabek, Stefan, 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  
Ensinger, Lori, Council Member  
Galef, Hon. Sandra, Council Member  
McHenry, Barnabas, Council Chairman  
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  
Yaun, Johanna, Orange County 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  
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

Chairmen Barnabas McHenry and Kevin Burke called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. Executive Director Scott Keller called the roll.

Agenda Review

Chairman Burke called for any comments on the agenda. No comments were made.

Minutes of October 21, 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 October 21, 2020 Greenway Joint Meeting. On a motion from Chairman Barnabas McHenry, (Jane Daniels second) the minutes of the October 21, 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 November 30, 2020 Meeting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Grants Committee

Chairman Burke called for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 30, 2020 meeting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Grants Committee. On a motion from Bob Elliott (Meg Downey second) the minutes of the November 30, 2020 meeting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Grants Committee were unanimously approved.

Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council

Call to Order

Chairman Barnabas McHenry called the Council meeting to order.

Executive Director Scott Keller announced that the Greenway Grants Committee met on December 6, 2019 and March 5, 2020 and recommended funding for a number of Council and Conservancy grants. Due to weather and the pandemic, both the December and March Boards of Directors meetings were postponed, and the grants haven't been considered yet. Minutes of those December 2019 and March 2020 Grants Committee meetings were subsequently approved at the May 27 Boards of Directors meeting. The Greenway has now received permission from the NYS Division of Budget to award these older grants, while the current state-funded grants programs are still on hold.

Mr. Keller noted one difference in the grants being recommended for funding, which is that normally the date the Boards approve the grants is the award date which also serves as the start date for the project in the Grant MOU's between HRVG and the grantees. For these grants, the Greenway did not want to punish the grantees for matters beyond their control, so the award date will be retroactive to the date the Grants Committee recommended funding for all of the Council and Conservancy grants approved at today's meeting.

#### Hudson River Valley Greenway Grant Awards

Executive Director Scott Keller reviewed the Greenway Grant applications recommended for funding by the Greenway Grants Committee.

#### *Greenway Planning Grants Program*

The Town of Hoosick, Rensselaer County, is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$10,000 for a Comprehensive Plan update. The Committee recommends \$10,000 and a December 6, 2019 start date.

The Town of Westerlo, Albany County, is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$10,000 for a Comprehensive Plan update. The Committee recommends \$10,000 and a December 6, 2019 start date.

The Town of Dover, Dutchess County, is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$7,000 for a Comprehensive Plan update. The Committee recommends \$7,000 and a March 5, 2020 start date.

The Town of New Lebanon, Columbia County, is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$10,000 for a Comprehensive Plan Revision. The Committee recommends \$10,000 and a March 5, 2020 start date.

The Town of New Paltz, Ulster County, is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$10,000 for a Community Preservation Plan. The Committee recommends \$10,000 and a March 5, 2020 start date.

The Village of Highland Falls, Orange County, is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$10,000 for a Comprehensive Plan update. The Committee recommends

\$10,000 and a March 5, 2020 start date.

#### *Greenway Compact Grants Program*

The City of Peekskill, Westchester County, is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$10,000 for a Natural Resources Inventory. The Committee recommends \$10,000 and a December 6, 2019 start date.

Chairman McHenry called for a vote on the Greenway Planning and Compact Grants. On a motion from Sandra Galef (Mary McNamara second), the grants were unanimously approved. Linda von der Heide recused herself on the vote for the Hoosick grant.

Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Inc.

#### Call to Order

Chairman Burke called the Conservancy meeting to order.

#### 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, and that the Albany-Hudson Electric Trail would be complete by the deadline of December 31, 2020. Trails are experiencing so much use during the pandemic that plans are already underway to expand parking along the trail.

Mr. Beers also said that work on the 58 construction projects throughout the Empire State Trail are 70% complete and on schedule. The Governor's office is determining how and when to announce completion of the trail. The Empire State Trail website launched in the fall and has extensive information on all sections of the trail, including connecting trails.

#### Greenway Conservancy Trail Grants Awards

Executive Director Scott Keller reviewed the Grant Committee's recommendations for the Greenway Conservancy Trail Grants. The start date recommended by the Grants Committee for all approved Conservancy Trail grants is December 6, 2019.

Boscobel House and Gardens is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$17,929.75 for a Reese Woodland Trail Rehabilitation Project. The Committee recommends \$16,000, with the special condition that the funds be used only for the gazebo repair and tree work, not the trail maintenance, which is not an eligible expense.

The City of Yonkers is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$75,000 for the Yonkers Greenway 2020 project. The Committee recommends \$75,000.

The Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$10,000 for trail maintenance on the Albany-Hudson Electric Trail. The Committee recommends \$10,000.

The Grassland Bird Trust, Inc. is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$68,750 for the AZS Birding Trail, linking to the Empire State Trail and Greenway Trail. The Committee recommends \$68,750.

The Town of Saratoga is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$55,000 for the Concept Trail Plan for Champlain Canalway Trail/Empire State Trail: Wilbur Road Trailhead. The maximum available in this category is \$40,000. The Committee recommends \$40,000.

The Village of Kinderhook is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$10,000 for Kinderhook Creek Access Point Improvements. The Committee recommends \$10,000.

The Village of Sleepy Hollow is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$40,000 for a Riverwalk Extension project. The Committee recommends \$40,000.

The Walkway Over the Hudson is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$10,000 for the Walkway East Gate Arrival Plaza Interpretation Capacity. The Committee recommends \$10,000, with the special conditions that they consider WAG 2.0 accessibility standards, no monthly fees are to be allowed as match, and they must follow Empire State Trail design guidelines.

Chairman Burke called for a vote on the Greenway Trail Grants recommended for funding. Chairman McHenry recused himself on the vote for the Boscobel grant. On a motion from Jane Daniels (Sarah Olson second) the grants were unanimously approved.

## Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

### Call to Order

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

### National Heritage Area Heritage Development Grants

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

The Columbia County Historical Society is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$4,975 for Early Heritage: A Cultural Legacy in Columbia County, NY. The Committee recommends \$4,975.

Friends of Griffin's Tavern are seeking grant funding in the amount of \$10,000 for Washington-Rochambeau Traveling Trunk Exhibit. The Committee recommends \$5,000 for the video virtual-visit by adult reenactors only. The resolution from the organization will not be passed until December 13, 2020, which will be the earliest possible start date for the grant.

The New Netherlands Institute is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$5,000 for a

Dutch American Sites ArcGIS Story Map. The Committee recommends \$5,000.

The Village of Kinderhook is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$2,000 for a GeoTourist Digital App: Historic Kinderhook Village: A Walking and Bicycle Tour. The Committee recommends \$2,000.

Chairman Burke called for a vote on the Heritage Development Grants. On a motion from Chairman McHenry (Jayne McLaughlin second), the grants were unanimously approved.

### Dutch and Native American Brochure

Executive Director Scott Keller reviewed the announcement from the last Board Meeting that the NHA has received a \$25,000 grant from Dutch Culture USA, a program of the Dutch Consulate in NYC. Following an extensive procurement process the NHA has selected 2K Designs, who also designed the Heritage Site Guidebook. The map/guide is in the third and final revision process.

### Executive Director's Report

Scott Keller gave his Executive Director's report. His remarks are included below, and the full report is appended to and a part of these minutes.

"I want to take a moment to salute the EST team for bringing this project to a successful conclusion on time. Knock wood. Paul Glesta who has been with us since 5/2017 and Dara Morin since 9/2018 are leaving at the end of the year. They have been an enormous help, instrumental to the success of the EST project, and great fun to work with. They will be missed.

Brickmaking story live on our NHA website

<https://www.hudsonrivervalley.com/about/voices-of-the-hudson>

Dr. Michael Conrad, Executive Office of Clarkson University's Beacon Institute on Denning's Point in Dutchess County describes the events that led to the beginning of the Hudson Valley brickmaking industry, the advantages the HV had including ready access to materials and inexpensive transportation, the use of immigrants to make the bricks, the skill required to get the mixture right, and what caused the industry to decline and eventually disappear.

Finally the rest of the staff continues to perform with great professionalism as we continue to work through the pandemic. I want to thank them all."

### New Business

Joanna Yaun has some new information relating to the Mount Lookout Dutchess Quarry Caves that will be shared with the Board via email.

Jayne McLaughlin spoke about the Greenway Grants programs and encouraged her

fellow Board Members to do increased outreach to potential applicants.

Andy Bicking noted that the Town of New Paltz recently became the first municipality in Ulster County to approve a real estate transfer tax to support a local Community Preservation Fund.

Cindy Lanzetta announced that the Town of Marlborough has recently completed a Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan.

## Future Meetings

The 2021 Joint Board meetings are scheduled for

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

## Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m. by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Campochiaro  
Meeting Secretary