

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.  
March 10, 2021  
Via Telephone and WebEx  
MINUTES

Attendance

**Conservancy Members Present**

Burke, Kevin, Conservancy Chairman  
Daniels, Jane, Conservancy Member  
Jacks, Betsy, Conservancy Vice-Chair  
Lanzetta, Cindy, Conservancy Member  
McLaughlin, Jayne, Conservancy Treasurer  
Olson, Sarah, Conservancy Secretary  
Tobin, Erin, Conservancy Member  
Williams, Jeanne, Conservancy Member  
Yarabek, Stefan, Conservancy Member

**Conservancy Members Present by Proxy**

Brown, Kristin, Conservancy Member  
Murray, Dennis, Conservancy Member  
Weiss, Daniela, 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  
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  
Yaun, Johanna, Orange County Council Member

**Council Members Present by Proxy**

Ensinger, Lori, 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  
Liberte, Andrew, Delegate for Hon. Sandy Galef, Council 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

**Delegates Present by Proxy**

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

**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  
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 10:03 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 December 9, 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 December 9,  
2020 Greenway Joint Meeting. On a motion from Wint Aldrich, (Meg Downey second)  
the minutes of the December 9, 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 March 1, 2021 Meeting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway  
Grants Committee

Chairman Burke called for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2021

meeting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Grants Committee. On a motion from Bob Elliott (Wint Aldrich second) the minutes of the March 1, 2021 meeting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Grants Committee were unanimously approved.

## Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council

### Call to Order

Meeting Chair Wint Aldrich called the Council meeting to order.

Executive Director Scott Keller gave an update on the Greenway Communities program. The Hudson River Valley Greenway is composed of 324 communities, including Towns, Villages, Cities, Counties, and parts of 2 Boroughs. Only towns wholly within the Catskill Forest Preserve and the inland portions of Manhattan and the Bronx are excluded from the Greenway. To date 281 or 87% of those communities have voted to join the Greenway and agreed to consider the five Greenway Criteria when performing land use planning activities. The Greenway Criteria are: locally based regional planning, natural and cultural resource protection, heritage and environmental education, public access to the Hudson River and other significant resources, and economic development, including agriculture and tourism.

When communities elect to become Greenway Communities, they become eligible to receive Greenway Community grants. Additionally, five counties have created Greenway Compacts including Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester. As of this meeting, 58 of communities within Greenway Compact counties have become participating Greenway Compact Communities by changing their land use and zoning laws to conform to their County Planning Compacts. Those 58 communities are eligible to receive Compact Planning Grants as well as Community grants. To date, the Greenway has awarded 381 Community and Compact grants totaling nearly \$4 million. 48 of those grants are currently active. The business of the Council generally is to accept new communities as either Greenway Communities or Compact Communities and to award grants.

## 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 Empire State Trail (EST). On December 30, 2020, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced the completion of the Empire State Trail. In addition, the Hudson River Brickyard trail was completed, and Metro North Railroad announced the completion of the Maybrook Trailway. In 2021 some of the older, existing sections of the Empire State Trail will also be resurfaced and rehabilitated so that the entire trail is up to the same standard.

On January 1, Mr. Beers and Mr. Keller attended a ribbon cutting ceremony and first day hike on the Albany-Hudson Electric Trail (AHET). The AHET has received a lot of positive press, and work continues to close out some of the remaining punch list

construction projects by Memorial Day. A final report on the construction of the AHET will be issued in summer 2021.

Mr. Beers also noted that NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, NYS Office of Information Technology Services, and I Love NY have been working to promote the EST, including updating the website, which has received lots of traffic in the new year. In his 2021 State of the State Address, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced the Empire State Challenge, a series of events designed to get people out on the trail safely, including encouraging local trail use and virtual events. The upcoming Consolidated Funding Application is expected to contain funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects through NYS Department of Transportation, which will further benefit sections of the EST.

Executive Director Scott Keller noted that with the completion of the EST, the Greenway had also reached a milestone achievement, the completion of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Trail. This accomplishment was reached 29 years to the day after Governor Mario Cuomo announced the Greenway's enabling legislation.

#### AHET Additional Parking SEQR Approval

Mr. Keller explained that the AHET has been a tremendous success, however, with so many people enthusiastic about using the trail, parking has become an issue. The existing parking areas are frequently overwhelmed, necessitating additional parking areas. The consultants the Greenway has been working with on the trail, GPI, has created a plan to build four more parking areas at 1) Southern Avenue in East Greenbush (12 spaces); 2) Rice Road in Schodack (5 spaces); 3) Depot Street in Chatham (7 spaces); and 4) Sunnyside Road in Stuyvesant (3 spaces). Construction of these sites is dependent upon community and/or National Grid approval and will not be built without it. East Greenbush has provided approval and that site will be built this year. Answers from the remaining communities and National Grid, are expected shortly. The SEQR process must be completed in a timely fashion, as by the time of the next Board meeting the Greenway's contract with the construction firm will have expired. Consulting firm GPI has performed SEQR and determined that a negative declaration is appropriate. The Conservancy Board only will need to approve the SEQR negative declaration. Chairman Burke called for a vote on the SEQR resolution. On a motion from Stefan Yarabek (Sarah Olson second), the resolution was unanimously approved.

#### Greenway Water Trail Designation, Crailo State Historic Site

Mr. Keller announced that Crailo State Historic Site has requested designation as a Greenway Water Trail site. Fort Crailo is located in the City of Rensselaer and has a small beach landing, that they hope to develop into more robust water-based recreational facilities in order to attract more visitors to the site. They are seeking designation as both a hand launch and day use site.

#### Greenway Trail Designation, Mohonk Preserve Foothills

Mr. Keller then announced that Mohonk Preserve is seeking designation of their 3.5 mile Foothills Trail between Testimonial Gateway on Lenape Lane and Duck Pond

Contact Station on Duck Pond Road. The Greenway has supported this project with two grants, the first a Connectivity Planning Project in 2012-13 and the latter an Interpretive Signage grant in 2016. Both projects were successfully completed.

Chairman Burke called for a vote on both the Water Trail and Greenway Trail designations. On a motion from Jane Daniels (Stefan Yarabek second), the two designations were unanimously approved.

## Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

### Call to Order

Chairman 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 FASNY Museum of Firefighting is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$5,000 for a STEM in the Hudson Valley Virtual Program. The Committee recommends \$5,000.

The Fullerton Center is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$5,000 for the Downing in Newburgh project. The Committee recommends \$5,000. Johanna Yaun recuses herself from the vote on this grant.

The Untermeyer Gardens Conservancy is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$5,000 for a Video Series: Garden Walks with Timothy. The Committee recommends \$5,000.

Chairman Burke called for a vote on the Heritage Development Grants. On a motion from Bob Elliott (Wint Aldrich second), the grants were unanimously approved, with Joanna Yaun recusing herself from the Fullerton Center grant.

### Dutch and Native American Brochure

Executive Director Scott Keller gave an update on the newly published Dutch and Native American brochure. In 2018 Stefan Yarabek suggested the creation of a Dutch-Native American Heritage brochure. The NHA Management Committee was briefed and approved of the project. Working with the Committee, one of Stefan's students, Allison Jungkurth, produced a 10-page white paper and a draft brochure layout. Over the next year the Committee and NHA staff worked with OPRHP and a text editor to cut the white paper down to a brochure length text. In 2020 the HRVNHA received a \$25,000 grant from the Dutch Consulate US for design and printing of the brochure. The brochure is now complete, and 250,000 copies have been printed and will shortly be available to all NHA Heritage Sites, as well as other interested parties. The project has come in well under budget. All Board members should have already received a copy of the brochure. Once the brochure is available to be mailed, it will be posted on the Heritage Area website, along with the 10-page white paper Allison created, which provides more in-depth information than would fit in the brochure.

## Executive Director's Report

Advisory Board Member Andy Bicking introduced Scenic Hudson's new Executive Director for Policy, Advocacy and Science, Rocci Aguirre. Mr. Aguirre expressed his pleasure at working with the Greenway and being back in the Hudson Valley.

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

"We are continuing to work from home, with five staff occasionally making trips into the office or working in the field. We are hopeful that by the fall we may be back in our office full-time. Having the ability to work from home will give us additional flexibility for future operations.

We are planning a Ramble event for September but will not be doing a large-scale printing of a guidebook this year in case the pandemic precludes our holding the Ramble. The upfront costs are too high to risk not holding the event again this year. Instead we will have a PDF version of the brochure designed and posted on our website. If it appears we will be able to hold the Ramble a limited number of brochures may be printed.

Using funds saved from the larger printing we are exploring the possibility of creating a Hudson/Champlain Valleys guide to the Empire State Trail.

As always, I want to commend to you the staff of the Greenway for their continued efforts to make our programs operate smoothly during the pandemic."

## New Business

Joanna Yaun announced a planned memorial for David Schuyler on April 9<sup>th</sup> in Newburgh. The ceremony will include a tree planting and plaque in Mr. Schuyler's honor.

Amy Bracewell gave an update on the renovations at Springwood, which include upgrading the HVAC and various cosmetic improvements that were much needed. The site held a quiet, socially distanced open house this past Friday for partners to celebrate the renovations.

## Future Meetings

The 2021 Joint Board meetings are scheduled for

- 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