

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 10, 2021
Via Telephone and WebEx
MINUTES

Attendance

Conservancy Members Present

Brown, Kristin Cole, Conservancy Member
Burke, Kevin, Conservancy Chairman
Daniels, Jane, Conservancy Member
Jacks, Betsy, Conservancy Vice-Chair
Lanzetta, Cindy, Conservancy Member
Olson, Sarah, Conservancy Secretary
Tobin, Erin, Conservancy Member
Weiss, Daniela, Conservancy Member
Williams, Jeanne, Conservancy Member

Conservancy Members Present by Proxy

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

Council Members Present

Alteri, Vincent, Rockland County Council Member
Carlquist, Jennifer, Putnam 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
Head, Betty, Albany County Council Member
McNamara, Mary, Ulster County Council Member
von der Heide, Linda, Rensselaer County Council Member
Yaun, Johanna, Orange County Council Member

Council Members Present by Proxy

Aldrich, J. Winthrop, Council Member

Delegates Present

Beard, Nancy, Joint Co-Delegate for Commissioner, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Cooper, Linda, Joint Delegate for Commissioner, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Ethier, Jaime, Joint Deputy Delegate for Secretary of State

Leibert, Andrew, Delegate for Hon. Sandy Galef, Council Member
Leo, Christian, Joint Delegate for Commissioner of NYS Office of General Services
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

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. Scott Keller noted that there are two errors in the agenda that was sent to Board members. The first is that the Town of Greenville that is recommended for a Council grant is in Orange County, not Greene County. There is a Town of Greenville in both counties. The second error is that the Conservancy is not proposing a Contingency Budget at this meeting.

Minutes of March 10, 2021 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 March 10, 2021 Greenway Joint Meeting. On a motion from Jeanne Williams, (Jane Daniels second) the minutes of the March 10, 2021 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. Chairman Kevin Burke and Jennifer Carlquist abstained from this vote.

Minutes of June 4, 2021 Meeting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Grants Committee

Chairman Burke called for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2021

meeting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Grants Committee. On a motion from Bob Elliott (Meg Downey second) the minutes of the June 4, 2021 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.

Certificate of Appreciation

Executive Director Scott Keller read the text of a Certificate of Appreciation for Michelle Smith, Executive Director of Hudson Highlands Land Trust and former Putnam County member of the Greenway Council Board. Michelle is relocating to her native Australia. She will be greatly missed as an active member of the Board and supporter of the Greenway's efforts. Ms. Smith stated that she was glad to have been a part of the Greenway Board.

Welcome Jennifer Carlquist to the Council

Scott Keller announced that Jennifer Carlquist had been appointed as the Putnam County representative by Putnam County Executive Mary Ellen Odell on March 24, 2021, replacing Michelle Smith. Jennifer was recommended by Michelle, has been the Executive Director of Boscobel since 2018, and has lived in the Hudson Valley for the past 25 years. Ms. Carlquist thanked Mr. Keller and the Board members for the welcome and stated that she was very happy to be added to the Greenway Board.

Reappoint Sarah Olson to the Conservancy Board of Directors

Mr. Keller explained that Sarah Olson's term had expired on March 22 of this year. She serves as the Conservancy Secretary and is appointed by the Council Board.

Compact Community Designation

Scott Keller explained the Greenway community designation types. The first, Compact Community Designation, as in this case, is the highest level of designation. It means a community has changed their zoning law to conform to a Greenway Compact Plan prepared and adopted by a County and approved by the Greenway Council. In our enabling legislation this is defined as a "participating Greenway community." These communities accrue all benefits of being a compact community as set forth in our legislation. The counties which have approved Greenway compacts are Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester. The second type of designation is as a Greenway Community. This lets a community work with the Greenway at an introductory level. Communities become eligible for Greenway Community grants. They agree to address the 5 Greenway criteria, which are Natural & Cultural Resource Protection, Regional Planning, Economic Development (including tourism and agriculture), Public Access to the HR and other areas of regional significance, and Heritage and Environmental Education.

The Town of Carmel, Putnam County is seeking designation as a Compact Community member. They have passed the requisite local law amending their zoning to adopt the

Putnam County Compact Plan. This will bring to 59 the number of Compact Communities.

Community Designation Request

Mr. Keller announced that the Village of Woodbury, Orange County is seeking designation as a Greenway Community and pledges to consider the five Greenway criteria in developing planning and projects. This will bring to 282 the number of Greenway Communities.

Adoption of Dutchess County Greenway Guide Updates

Mr. Keller stated that Dutchess County has adopted two new guides to their County Compact Plan entitled Greenway Connections, Greenway Compact Program and Guides for Dutchess County Communities. The two new guides both relate to light pollution as given off by Digital Signs, the 1st guide, and LED Lighting, the 2nd.

Communities Council Grants

Mr. Keller reviewed the grant applications that had been received for the Communities Grant Program.

Orange County is seeking \$25,000 for an Open Space Plan Update and the Grants Committee recommends \$10,000. Funding will go towards updating the County Open Space Plan, adopted by the County legislature as an addendum to its Comprehensive Plan in 2004.

The Town of Greenville, Orange County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends \$10,000 for a Zoning Code Update. The Town will identify deficiencies in its Zoning Code, which hasn't been comprehensively updated since 1989.

The Town of Kingsbury, Washington County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends \$10,000 for Phase 1 of a Comprehensive Plan Update. The Town seeks to initiate the Public Outreach and Engagement, of the Town's Comprehensive Planning effort.

The Town of Woodstock, Ulster County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends \$8,000 for a Comprehensive Plan Implementation: Zoning Update for Housing & Community Character.

Meeting Chair Bob Elliott called for a vote on the reappointment of Sarah Olson to the Conservancy Board, acceptance of the new Compact Community, Greenway Community, and the Dutchess County Greenway Guides, and approval of the grants as recommended by the Grants Committee. On a motion from Lind a von der Heide (Meg Downey second), the vote was passed unanimously.

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). Mr. Beers noted that the Empire State Trail is fully open, with a very high level of use. According to Parks & Trails NY, the level of use on the Erie Canalway Trail was up 20-50% in 2020. A final report on the EST will be available in late summer. Additionally, a new section on lodging has been added to the EST website.

The EST has partnered with the Boilermaker to create an Empire State Trail Challenge. Housed on the Boilermaker website, the challenge runs through July 31st, with 600-plus registrants logging the miles they have completed on the EST.

Mr. Beers noted that the Albany Hudson Electric Trail (AHET) has seen a high level of use since its opening. The new parking areas approved by the Board at the last meeting are under construction. Two of the parking areas are complete and two are under construction and will be complete by the end of June.

Approve SEQRA for AHET Old Miller Road Parking Area

A landowner has approached the Greenway with an offer to use his land as a new parking area for the AHET, under a lease agreement. The Board must approve the Negative Declaration for the SEQRA process for building the new parking area, which should be constructed in late summer or fall.

Chairman Burke called for a vote on the SEQRA for the new parking area. On a motion from Jane Daniels (Erin Tobin second) the negative declaration was unanimously approved.

Adoption of Annual Budget

Executive Director Scott Keller explained that there was no contingency budget as had been put on the agenda, rather what is being presented is the Greenway budget for state fiscal year 2021-22. Mr. Keller then reviewed the budget document that had been distributed to the Conservancy Board prior to the meeting. Mr. Keller highlighted some of the new projects in the budget this year, including the resumption of grant making for trails and planning, preparation of new county maps showing all designated segments of the Greenway Trail, and several resurfacing projects on the EST.

One larger project is an update and expansion of the Cycling the Hudson Valley Guidebook, which will become a guide to the EST in the Hudson and Champlain Valleys. Last published in 2011, this will be a companion to the Cycle the Erie Canal guidebook, whose latest edition was released this year. The guidebook is expected to be published next spring. Funding for the area covered by the guide that is out of the Greenway area is being covered by Natural Heritage Trust, through a grant from the Northern Region Border Commission.

Adopt PARIS Documents

Mr. Keller reviewed the requirements for the Conservancy as a Public Benefit

Corporation, which includes filing documents annually with the Public Authorities Reporting Information System (PARIS). The Board must adopt these documents before they are filed. These documents were shared with the Board prior to the meeting and will be available on our website after the meeting.

Greenway Conservancy Trail Grants

Mr. Keller reviewed the applications for Greenway Conservancy Trail Grants which had been recommended for funding by the Grants Committee.

The Village of Briarcliff Manor, Westchester County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends \$72,550 for connecting the North County Trail (EST) to the village's central business district, with its many eateries and independent stores.

The Calvert Vaux Preservation Alliance, Dutchess County is seeking \$15,350 for the Hoyt Carriageway Bridge but did not provide for enough qualifying match therefore the Grants Committee is only able to recommend \$13,100. This project will generate a Historic Structure Report (HSR) for the Hoyt Drive bridge in Mills Norrie State Park.

Columbia Land Conservancy, Columbia County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends \$20,000 for repair and resurfacing of deteriorated sections of the 1.5-mile Access for All Trail in the Greenport Conservation Area.

Orange County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends \$20,000 for paving of a trailhead parking area, adding a bicycle rack, and repaving a mile-long segment of the 18-mile Heritage Trail beginning at the 1915 Erie Railroad Train Station in Chester moving Southeast toward Monroe, NY.

The Town of Cairo, Greene County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, \$10,000 to expand the Mountaineer Rail Trail and add trail amenities to existing and proposed portions of trail.

The Town of Philipstown, Putnam County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, \$37,100 for a Connector Trail Feasibility Study/action plan for the Philipstown Connector Trail, a multi-use trail that would connect the Village of Cold Spring to the Garrison train station.

Conservancy AHET Trail Maintenance Grants.

Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail, (CFET) Columbia County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends \$10,000 to continue CFET's services in maintain a 13.5 mile section of the AHET trail in the Towns of Chatham, Kinderhook (excluding Village of Kinderhook) Stuyvesant, Stockport and Greenport and the Village of Valatie. Maintenance will be done on the off-road sections of the trail. Maintenance activities will consist of mowing shoulders, string trimming, litter removal, tree limb removal and patrolling the Trail to identify maintenance issues.

Rensselaer Land Trust (RLT), Rensselaer County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends \$7,500 to continue RLT's services in maintaining a 6.6 mile section of the AHET trail located in the Town of Schodack, including grass mowing, weed whacking, tree trimming, removal of fallen leaves, trees and tree limbs; litter removal, and trailhead parking maintenance. RLT will monitor and report to the Greenway any capital rehabilitation needs.

Chairman Burke called for a vote to approve the Conservancy budget, PARIS documents, and Conservancy Trail Grants. On a motion from Jeanne Williams (Sarah Olson second), the resolutions 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.

Friends of Odell House, Westchester County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends \$5,000 for The Decision that won the American Revolution. The 1781 French American Encampment, a multi-media project to educate children and adults of all ages about one of the most important events in the American Revolution. It will consist of a digital presentation, a physical exhibition, and a short video.

The Irish American Heritage Museum, Albany County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends \$5,000 for Collars, Canals, and Conflagrations!, an exhibition supported by additional programming and materials.

The Olana Partnership, Columbia County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, \$5,000 for Panorama Summer Learning Program for Youth, a week-long summer learning institute for audiences ages 6-11.

The Shaker Heritage Site, Albany County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, \$5,000 for Virtual Watervliet Relaunch.

Sing Sing Prison Museum, Westchester County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, \$10,000 to redesign, relocate, and translate the Sing Sing Prison exhibition from the Village of Ossining's Community Center to the Sing Sing Prison Museum's Powerhouse Preview Center.

Westmoreland Sanctuary, Westchester County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, \$5,000 to develop a free Westmoreland Sanctuary Virtual Tour of their 640-acre property on their website.

Chairman Burke called for a vote on the Heritage Development Grants. On a

motion from Betsy Jacks (Carla Castillo second), the grants were unanimously approved. Bob Elliot recused himself on the vote for the Sing Sing Prison Museum grant, and Jane Daniels recused herself on the vote for the Westmoreland Sanctuary.

Dutch and Native American Brochure

Executive Director Scott Keller gave an update on the newly published Dutch and Native American brochure. The NHA staff have sent out over 15,000 copies so far. The Dutch Consulate has expressed pleasure at how the brochure turned out and noted that positive feedback has come from both Consulate staff, as well as the permanent mission to the United Nations.

Executive Director's Report

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

"All staff is back in the office on a part-time basis. We are awaiting guidance from OGS/DOH on how the office will be operating once we reach a statewide level of 70% vaccinated. Currently those of us in adjoining cubicles are not allowed to be in the office at the same time. This is especially true for everyone with very short walls between adjoining cubicles, which is all but two of us. We are also coordinating with DEC personnel who sit next to us on one side as well to avoid conflicts."

Chairman Burke stated, and Mr. Keller agreed, the staff went above and beyond the call of the duty the past year.

New Business

Future Meetings

The 2021 Joint Board meetings are scheduled for

- October 13, 2021
- December 8, 2021

The 2022 meeting dates will be announced at the October 2021 meeting, with locations to be determined

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Campochiaro

Meeting Secretary