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 9, 2022
Via Zoom
MINUTES

Attendance

Conservancy Members Present
Brown, Kristin Cole, Conservancy Member
Burke, Kevin, Conservancy Chairman
Daniels, Jane, Conservancy Member
Jacks, Betsy, Conservancy Vice-Chair
Idleman, Sara, Conservancy Member
Lanzetta, Cindy, Conservancy Member
McLaughlin, Jayne, Conservancy Treasurer
Olson, Sarah, Conservancy Secretary
Williams, Jeanne, Conservancy Member

Conservancy Members Present by Proxy
Murray, Dennis, Conservancy Member
Weiss, Daniela, Conservancy Member

Conservancy Delegates Present
Cocozza, Jennifer, for Conservancy Member Hon. Marcus Molinaro

Council Members Present
Aldrich, J. Winthrop, Acting Council Chair
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
Piscitelli, Anthony, New York City Council Member
Schneid, Matthew, New York City Council Member
von der Heide, Linda, Rensselaer County Council Member
Yaun, Johanna, Orange County Council Member

Council Members Present by Proxy
Call to Order
Chairman Kevin Burke called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

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

Delegate Updates
Executive Director Scott Keller announced changes to the Board Delegates roster. Jaime Ethier, who had previously been the delegate for the NYS Department, has taken a new position in another agency, and a new delegate will be named. The Acting Delegate at this meeting is Jeff Palmer. The Conservancy Member, County Executive Marc Molinaro, has named a new delegate, Jennifer Cocozza.

Minutes of December 8, 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 December 8, 2021 Greenway Joint Meeting. On a motion from Meg Downey, (Bob Elliott second) the minutes of the December 8, 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. Jennifer Cocoozza and Jeff Palmer abstained from voting as they were not present at the December meeting.

Minutes of March 1, 2022 Meeting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Grants Committee

Chairman Burke called for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2022 meeting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Grants Committee. On a motion from Bob Elliott (Sarah Olson second) the minutes of the December 3, 2021 meeting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Grants Committee were unanimously approved.

Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council

Call to Order

Acting Council Chair Wint Aldrich called the Council meeting to order.

Greenway Community Designations

Executive Director Scott Keller announced that the Town of Prattsville, Greene County, and the Village of Fort Edward, Washington County, had requested designation as Greenway Communities.

Communities Council Grants

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

The Town of Lexington, Greene County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, $10,000 for a Comprehensive Plan Update.

The Town of Prattsville, Greene County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends $10,000 for a Phase I Visioning of a Comprehensive Plan Update.

The Village of Athens, Greene County, is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, $8,000 for a Street Tree Inventory and Management Plan.

Communities Council Compact Grants

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

The Town of East Fishkill, Dutchess County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends $10,000 for a Comprehensive Master Plan Update.
Acting Chair Wint Aldrich called for a vote on the Greenway Community Designations, as well as the Greenway Communities and Compact grants recommended by the Grants Committee. On a motion from Bob Elliott (Mary McNamara second), the grants were approved unanimously. Rich Schiafo, who had submitted a proxy, recused himself on the vote for the Lexington 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 Empire State Trail (EST). His presentation is appended to and is a part of these minutes.

Following the presentation, Greenway Executive Director Scott Keller announced that in May, the operation of the Empire State Trail would transfer to the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Mr. Keller then introduced Molly Reilly, who will be leading this project for Parks.

Mr. Keller announced that Mr. Beers would be retiring in May and thanked him for his dedication and hard work to making the Empire State Trail a reality. Chairman Burke also expressed his gratitude to Andy, and his expertise and leadership which made the Empire State Trail so successful. Many Board Members expressed their thanks and congratulations to Mr. Beers through the Zoom chat feature, several of which are excerpted below:

Cindy Lanzetta: Such an amazing legacy project!!!

From Sarah Olson: I agree, what a wonderful resource for the country. Congratulations.

From Betty Head: Very impressive. What a gift to everyone in NYS and beyond. Remarkable and an Incredible asset to our state. Thank you, Andy and all who worked with you.

From Meg Downey: It really is extraordinary. Congratulations to Andy and all involved!

From Jayne McLaughlin: Well done Andy and Greenway team! This is a spectacular achievement, a wonderful gift to the people of New York (and the world) and an enduring legacy for the Greenway.

From Jeanne Williams: EST and the trails it connects to have brought to light a wonderful resource for local citizens to rediscover their local trails and also gave families safe outdoor places to visit across the state during the Pandemic.
Adoption of PARIS Budget and Financial Plan

Executive Director Scott Keller informed the Board that the Public Authorities Reporting Information System or PARIS requires each public authority and public benefit corporation to submit annually and prior to their fiscal year end a Budget and Financial Plan. This report is both a high-level snapshot of anticipated revenues and expenses going out four years, but also looks at current year’s estimates, as well as last year’s actuals. The Board must adopt this report and it must be posted to the Greenway’s website. The PARIS Budget was included in the Board packets.

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 City of Newburgh, Orange County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, $10,000 for a Bike Trail to Downtown Newburgh feasibility study.

The Shaker Swamp Conservancy, Columbia County is seeking, and the grants committee recommends, $7,500 for a Nature Trail Feasibility Study.

Springside Landscape Restoration, Dutchess County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, $2,500 for a Revitalization of Springside’s Walking Tour.

The Yorktown Trail Town Committee, Westchester County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, $2,900 for a Trailhead Signage Project.

Albany-Hudson Electric Trail (AHET) Maintenance Conservancy Grants

The Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail, Columbia County, is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, $12,500 to support AHET Trail Maintenance in Columbia County, including mowing, weed whacking, tree trimming and leaf and tree limb removal.

The Rensselaer Land Trust, Rensselaer County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, $7,500 for AHET Trail Maintenance in Rensselaer County, including mowing, weed whacking, tree trimming and leaf and tree limb removal.

Chairman Burke called for a vote on the PARIS Budget, Conservancy Trail Grants and AHET Maintenance Grants. On a motion from Kitty Brown (Jeanne Williams second), the audit and grants were unanimously approved. Jane Daniels recused herself on the vote for the Yorktown grant.

Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

Call to Order

Chairman Burke and Acting Chair Aldrich 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 Hudson River Maritime Museum, Ulster County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, $10,000 to develop two New Age of Sail Exhibits.

Chairman Burke called for a vote on the Heritage Development Grant. On a motion from Kitty Brown (Jeanne Williams second), the grants were unanimously approved.

**Executive Director’s Report**

Scott Keller gave his Executive Director’s report:

Event registration for the 2022 Hudson River Valley Ramble will open on April 1, 2022.

Governor Hochul’s proposed budget contains $225,000 for Conservancy operations—an increase of $25,000 to cover mandated increases to salaries and benefits, $500,000 for Trail grants. For the Council the Governor has included $245,000 for council operations, an increase of $60,000 to cover the costs of maintaining the EST website and for emergency repairs and long-term maintenance expenses on the AHET trail. This is for items not covered in the grants to the maintenance organizations awarded earlier. Council grants remain at $136,000.

The NHA reauthorization program bill is once again being considered in the Senate. This bill would codify the NHA program within the National Park Service. We are hopeful that a full budget will be passed this month, at which time we expect to have a positive resolution to the reauthorization.

**New Business**

Andy Bicking announced that the New York-New Jersey Watershed Protection Act was introduced by Congressman Tonko, with strong support from legislators.

Jennifer Carlquist announced that great progress was being made on the Philipstown Trail Feasibility Study, funded by the Greenway. The staff at Boscobel are looking forward to the completion of the trail leading to an increase in visitors.

Joanna Yaun announced that a new AJ Downing brochure will be distributed in early April, with a new historic marker being placed on his former estate on April 29th.

**Future Meetings**
The 2022 Joint Board meetings are scheduled for
  Wednesday, June 8, 2022
  Wednesday, October 12, 2022
  Wednesday, December 14, 2022

  Chairman Burke took a moment to recognize Scott Keller for his wonderful leadership
  and continued hard work on behalf of the Greenway and National Heritage Area.

Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m. by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Campochiaro
Meeting Secretary
• 750-Mile Bicycling and Walking Trail
• 3 Legs: Erie Canalway Trail, Hudson Greenway Trail, Champlain Valley
• NYC to Buffalo (550 miles) is 85% Shared-Use Path
EST Completed – December 2020
$300 Million Total Funding

• In 2017, the Governor and Legislature appropriated **$200 million** in state funds to create the Empire State Trail.

• The state investment leveraged an additional $100 million of federal, state, and local funds, including TAP, CMAQ, RTP, Environmental Protection Fund, municipal, and private sources.
Project Delivery

• In total, **58 construction projects** were completed across the state.

• 9 Participating state agencies: Hudson Greenway, NYSDOT, NYP/A/Canal Corporation, State Parks, Metro-North Railroad, NYS Bridge Authority, NYS Fair, NYSDEC, NYS Thruway Authority.

• 17 trail projects completed by local governments.
Empire State Trail Stats

• 180 miles of new trail construction.
• New trail segments ranged in length from 36 miles to 100 yards.
• NYSDOT made improvements to 170 miles of on-road sections.
• EST wayfinding signage installed to mark the continuous 750-mile route.
New: Albany-Hudson Electric Trail
New Rail-Trails: Maybrook Trailway
Canalway Trails – Erie Canal
Canalway Trails – Champlain Canal
New Castle - Route 100 Trail

New NYSDOT protected trail on state ROW
New Urban Trails – Kingston
The City of Watervliet (local project) constructed a new 1.5-mile separated path along Broadway.
Urban Trail – Erie Blvd, Syracuse
Railroad Tunnel – Schenectady County
Railroad Tunnel – Schenectady County
50 Gateways & Trailheads
NYSDOT used state transportation funds to rehabilitate a 3-mile section of trail in Albany.
Rehabbing Existing Trails
• Utilize the EST logo, wayfinding signage, and amenities package to create a consistent experience across 750-mile route – while retaining each trail segment’s local identify.

• Digital marketing efforts: Media & Travel-Based Publications, Tourism Promotion Agencies, I Love New York.
Empire State Trail

Now Complete!
The 750-mile Empire State Trail welcomes bicyclists and hikers to explore New York State’s extraordinary experiences, people, and places.

COVID-19 ADVISORY
While the Empire State Trail is open for walking and bicycling, New York State has issued public health guidance for trail visitors.

About the Trail

In 2011, New York Governor Cuomo launched the Empire State Trail to create a new, continuous multi-use trail system, offering residents and visitors a way to experience the state’s rich history, culture, and scenery.

The Empire State Trail connects New York City with the Hudson Valley, Catskills, Adirondacks, and Buffalo, providing a unique opportunity to explore the state’s diverse landscapes.

Hudson Valley Greenway Trail
New York City to Albany

Champlain Valley Trail
Albany to Canada Border

Erie Canalway Trail
Buffalo to Albany
Trail Overview
This 15-mile Empire State Trail section is an off-road paved trail, welcoming bicyclists and walkers of all abilities. This rail-trail section, which will open in 2021, begins at a parking area in Pawling, at the intersection of Route 252 and Holmes Rd. This scenic route follows the Maybrook Trailway north and west from there, passing by dense woods, farm fields, ponds and wetlands. This section ends at a trailhead parking area in Hopewell Junction, several hundred yards west of Route 22, which includes a railroad depot museum and public restrooms. This 15-mile section features long stretches of trail, with relatively few access points or crossings. Trail users can access local businesses in Hopewell Junction; otherwise, there are no public services along this section of the trail.

Cycling Directions
Cue sheets provide step-by-step navigation instructions for cycling the trail in both directions.

H09-HV10_South-North
DOWNLOAD

H10-HV09_North-South
DOWNLOAD
Printed Map & Guidebooks
Trail Visitation Monitoring

✓ 8.6 million annual visitors?
✓ 10+ million?
Future Route Improvements

NYSDOT ON-ROAD ROUTES
2017 CONCEPT PLAN
Questions & Comments