

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 13, 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  
McLaughlin, Jayne, Conservancy Treasurer  
Olson, Sarah, Conservancy Secretary  
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, Meeting 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  
Ensinger, Lori, Council Member  
Head, Betty, Albany County Council Member  
McNamara, Mary, Ulster County Council Member  
Piscitelli, Anthony, New York City Council Member  
Schiafo, Richard, Greene County Council Member  
Schneid, Matthew, New York City Council Member  
von der Heide, Linda, Rensselaer County Council Member

**Council Members Present by Proxy**

**Delegates Present**

Dunwell, Fran, 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

Laliberte, Tom, Joint Delegate for Commissioner of NYS Office of General Services

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 10:08 a.m. Executive Director Scott Keller called the roll.

## Agenda Review

Chairman Burke called for any comments on the agenda. Chairman Burke announced that there was one addition to the agenda, and that was the resignation of Erin Tobin from the Conservancy Board.

Mr. Keller announced that Erin Tobin would be stepping down from the Board as she would be taking a new position as Executive Director of Adirondack Architectural Heritage. Mr. Keller noted how wonderful it has been working with Ms. Tobin and the Board's appreciation for her service. Ms. Tobin noted that it had been her pleasure to serve on the Board and that she was honored to have joined. Ms. Tobin added that through the partnership with the National Heritage Area, the Preservation League had been able to award \$30,000 in grant funds which leveraged more than \$85,000 in matching funds.

Minutes of June 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 June 10, 2021 Greenway Joint Meeting. On a motion from Bob Elliott, (Linda Cooper second) the minutes of the June 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.

## Minutes of September 27, 2021 Meeting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Grants Committee

Chairman Burke called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2021 meeting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Grants Committee. On a motion from Bob Elliott (Cindy Lanzetta second) the minutes of the September 27, 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 announced that New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio had made his two appointments to the Council Board for the Bronx and Manhattan on September 2, 2021. The new two appointees are: Anthony Piscitelli, Counselor and Senior Advisor for CMW Strategies LLC in New York, and Matthew Schneid, a partner at Cole Schotz P.C., a NYC based-real estate legal. Both new appointees expressed how pleased they were to be joining the Board, and that they looked forward to working with everyone.

### Community Designation Request

Mr. Keller announced that the Town of Lexington in Greene County and the Town of Hebron in Washington County are seeking designation as Greenway Communities, and pledge to consider the five Greenway criteria in developing planning and projects. Both have passed the requisite resolutions requesting designation. Mr. Keller noted that thanks are due to Jeanne Williams for encouraging both communities to take this step.

### Communities Council Compact Grants

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

The Village of Hastings on Hudson, Westchester County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends \$20,000 for a Comprehensive Plan Update.

Meeting Chair Wint Aldrich called for a vote on the new Greenway Communities and the grant recommended by the Grants Committee. On a motion from Betty Head (Bob Elliott 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 a final report on the EST is complete and is included in the Board packets and includes the results of a total of 58 construction projects. The trail is

heavily used and has received a lot of positive press. Work has continued in 2021 to rehabilitate existing portions of trail and resurface older sections. A total of 5 projects are currently under construction, two are complete, and four more will be completed in 2022.

Mr. Beers also announced that the Greenway is partnered with NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to make updates to the EST website, using a \$700,000 grant from the Northern Border Regional Commission. The updates will allow users to share their location on a map and use their phone as a navigation tool.

The most frequent request on the Contact Us page of the EST website has been for a printed map. Through a Federal grant, the Greenway has produced a large format printed map that is printing this month and will be free to the public. The county level Tourism Promotion Agencies will be distributing the maps, which can also be requested through the EST website.

The EST will also be featured on the PBS program Travels with Daryl, which will air this winter.

The Greenway has purchased 10 trail counters with infrared sensors and installed them in the Hudson Valley section of the EST between Westchester and Washington Counties. The counters will remain in place for one year and will then be moved to 10 new locations. The Greenway is working with PTNY to gather user counts on the Erie Canalway section of the trail.

The Albany Hudson Electric Trail (AHET) has received many positive reviews and heavy use. The Greenway is partnered with the Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail and the Rensselaer Land Trust for maintenance of the trail. The original 8 parking areas on the trail proved to be insufficient for the amount of use, and four more were approved. While the Board did approve the creation of a new parking area on Old Miller Road, the private landowner declined the offer. The Greenway would still like to create additional parking and is looking into ways to make that happen.

Executive Director Scott Keller paused to acknowledge the phenomenal work Andy Beers has done to complete the Empire State Trail on time and under budget. A total of 58 construction projects and 386 miles of trail in 4 years is a tremendous achievement. Chairman Burke echoed these sentiments, and Meeting Chair Wint Aldrich noted that were the meeting in person, we should all stand in ovation for the work Andy has done.

#### Adoption of Audit

Executive Director Scott Keller explained that the 2020-21 SFY audit reports for the Public Benefit Corporation Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Inc., the 501(c)(3) not-for-profit Greenway Heritage Conservancy HRV, Inc., and a combined audit report were provided in your packet. As most of you know, Greenway Heritage Conservancy HRV, Inc. is legally a subsidiary to the Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Inc. Both corporations have the same Board of Directors. This necessitates having a combined set of statements and a combined audit report.

Both audits have clean opinions with no items on either the Management or the Finance Committee letters. As it is a state agency, we do not keep the books for the Greenway Council, therefore there is not an audit for the Council. Mr. Keller approves all expenditures for the Council and monitor state generated financial reports to ensure approved charges have been made appropriately.

#### 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 Hudson Valley Rail Trail is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends \$10,000 for Public History Interpretation Signage along the HV Rail Trail from Walkway Over the Hudson west to New Paltz.

Bard College is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends \$40,000 for Montgomery Place Pedestrian Safety Improvements.

The Town of Germantown, Columbia County is seeking, \$9,408.00 and the Grants Committee recommends \$9,400 for the Roe Jan Park Improvement Project.

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.

Chairman Burke called for a vote on the Conservancy audit and Conservancy Trail Grants. On a motion from Sarah Olson (Besty Jacks second), the audit and grants 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 Mills at Staatsburgh, Dutchess County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends \$5,000 for an Introductory Video to Staatsburgh State Historic Site.

The Village of Stillwater, Saratoga County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, \$3,000 for a Stillwater Heritage Guide, consisting of wayside exhibits along the Empire State Trail.

Chairman Burke called for a vote on the Heritage Development Grants. On a motion from Carla Castillo (Meg Downey second), the grants were unanimously approved. Linda Cooper recused herself on the Friends of Mills at Staatsburgh grant.

### Executive Director's Report

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

"Working with PTNY, we are updating our guidebook to the Greenway Trail. Formerly Cycling the Hudson Valley, the new version will now cover the HRVG/EST route between the Battery and Whitehall, and, thanks to the Natural Heritage Trust and the Northern Border Regional Commission, it will also cover the Champlain Valley/Adirondack section of the EST from Whitehall to the Canadian Border. The completely revised guidebook will be called Cycling the Hudson and Champlain Valleys. We expect publication of the guidebook in the spring. It will be sold through PTNY, with proceeds going to them to allow for updates to the guidebook in future years. It will be similar in style and meant to serve as a companion to PTNY's Cycling the Erie Canal, which was published this spring. When combined, these two guidebooks will cover the entirety of the EST.

Funding authorization for the HRVNHA and 29 other NHA's (out of 55) has expired. We are working with Congress, the Alliance of NHA's and other interested parties to extend the authorizations on a variety of tracks, ranging from short term (2-3 years) for all areas to individual bills, to a program bill that would codify all NHA's as a program of the NPS. Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney has introduced an individual bill that would extend our funding authorization until 2036. Expiration date for all NHA's under the program bill would be set for 2037. Both Erie Canalway and Champlain Valley are also facing loss of authorizations.

We still have spending authority and currently have the ability to expend this year's appropriation through May of 2023.

All staff have returned to the office or to in-person meetings at least two days a week. The state is in the process of implementing a Vaccination Verification and Testing Program for all employees. This program requires all employees to provide either proof of vaccination or weekly proof a Covid-19 test. All staff have complied with the requirements of this program. Our staff continues to perform admirably under still trying conditions. I am deeply aware and appreciative of the uncomplaining sacrifices they have made during the pandemic as we all face difficulties adjusting to our new reality. They are truly outstanding."

### Future Meetings

The 2021 Joint Board meetings are scheduled for

- December 8, 2021

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

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m. by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Campochiaro  
Meeting Secretary