

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 14, 2023
Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Library and Museum
4079 Albany Post Road
Hyde Park, NY 12538
And Via Zoom
MINUTES

Attendance

Conservancy Members Present

Burke, Kevin, Conservancy Chair
Brown, Kristin Cole, Conservancy Member
Daniels, Jane, Conservancy Member
Lanzetta, Cindy, Conservancy Member
Olson, Sarah, Conservancy Secretary
Williams, Jeanne, Conservancy Member
Yarabek, Stefan, Conservancy Member

Conservancy Members Present by Proxy

Jacks, Betsy, Conservancy Vice-Chair – present via Zoom
McLaughlin, Jayne, Conservancy Treasurer – present via Zoom
Murray, Dennis, Conservancy Member
Idleman, Sara, Conservancy Member – present via Zoom

Council Members Present

Aldrich, J. Winthrop, Council Vice Chair
Carlquist, Jennifer, Putnam County Council Member
Castillo, Carla, Council Member
Downey, Meg, Council Chair
Eachus, Hon. Christopher, Assemblyman
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

Altieri, Vincent, Rockland County Council Member – present via Zoom
Elliott, Robert, Westchester County Council Member
Henry, Angela, Dutchess County Council Member
Piscitelli, Anthony, New York City Council Member – present via Zoom
Schneid, Matthew, New York City Council Member – present via Zoom

Joint Delegates Present

Fernandez, Joanne, Joint Delegate for NYS Secretary of State
Turturro, Kelly, Joint Delegate for Commissioner, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Wynter, Damali, Joint Delegate for Commissioner of NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets

Joint Delegates Present by Proxy

Cooper, Linda, Joint Delegate for Commissioner, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
MacMillan, Lance, Joint Delegate for Commissioner of NYS Department of Transportation – present via Zoom

Board Members Attending by Zoom

Beephan, Hon. Anil, Council Member

Greenway Staff Present

Arana, Cody, Event Coordinator
Campochiaro, Beth, Trails and Community Outreach Director
Day, Shannon, Director of Operations
Keller, Scott, Executive Director

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by Chairs Kevin Burke and Meg Downey.

Bill Harris welcomed everyone to the FDR Presidential Library and Museum, and noted the new exhibit, *Black Americans, Civil Rights, and the Roosevelts, 1932-1962*. The exhibit will be on display through December 31, 2024.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Burke and Chair Downey welcomed the Board and meeting attendees. The Board and meeting attendees introduced themselves.

Welcome New Member and Delegate

Chair Meg Downey introduced new Council Member Assemblyman Christopher Eachus, appointed to the Council by the Assembly Speaker.

Presentation: Introduction of the Greenway Trails Map

Scott Keller introduced Dan Jeanson and Cody Arana of the Greenway staff, who presented their work on the Greenway's online trails map, <https://hudsongreenway.ny.gov/greenway-trail-system-map>. The online, interactive Greenway Trail System Map uses ArcGIS to illustrate and highlight the expansive network of designated Greenway trails throughout the Hudson Valley. The map includes nearly 1,000 miles of designated land trails and over 115 designated water trail sites along the 256-mile Hudson River Greenway Water Trail. The map allows users to discover designated trails and water trail sites in their communities and will aid in drafting grant applications and planning for future trail connections.

Cody Arana explained how he began with 17,000 records, collected from various agencies and partners throughout the Valley. Cody examined all these records, comparing them to Greenway records for designated trails. Through a process of outreach and research to verify and update information, Cody was able to then pass these records on to a mapping consultant for conversion to GIS. These new mapped segments then needed to be verified, which Cody was able to do over the course of a series of months going back and forth with the consultant.

Dan Jeanson then explained the process of taking this mapped data and using Adobe's online mapping tools, which the company refers to as "apps." Choosing the correct app and making sure the data was successfully converted to this new format, Dan was then able to customize the map's appearance and add a layer showing the Hudson Greenway Water Trail site locations. Users can view either the land trails, water trails, or both at the same time, which he displayed live to the Boards.

More updates will be made to the map as Greenway staff become more familiar with the platform, and as new trails are designated.

Agenda Review

Chair Kevin Burke called for any comments on the agenda. No comments were made by Board Members.

Minutes of March 8, 2023 Combined Meeting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council, Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Inc., and Greenway Heritage Conservancy HRV, Inc.

Chair Kevin Burke then asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the March 8, 2023 Greenway Joint Meeting. On a motion from Assemblyman Eachus, (Jeanne Williams second) the minutes of the March 8, 2023 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.

Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Inc.

Call to Order

Chair Kevin Burke called the Conservancy meeting to order.

Approval of Research and Monitoring Grant for HRNERR

Executive Director Scott Keller announced that the Board needed to approve the Greenway's grant administration for a Research and Monitoring Grant on behalf of the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Trail Designation

Scott Keller announced that the City of Peekskill, with the concurrence of other landowners DJJT Bertoline Associates, County of Westchester Industrial Development Agency, and Peekskill Industrial Development Agency, is seeking designation of a 2.82-mile waterfront trail. The entirety of this trail has direct physical access to the Hudson, so this is a great addition to the trail. The trail extends from the Annsville Creek Trail at Route 9, south to John Walsh Blvd at Lent's Cove.

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 Columbia Land Conservancy, Columbia County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, \$20,000 for Planning to Improve the Trails at Greenport Conservation Area.

The Kingston Land Trust, Ulster County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, \$130,000 for , KLT 2023 Rondout Uplands Trails and Parking.

The Town of East Fishkill, Dutchess County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, \$100,000 for the Junction Loop Trail for Hopewell Junction Hamlet.

The Town of Sand Lake, Rensselaer County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, \$15,000 for a Sand Lake Trail Plan 2023.

The Town of Yorktown, Westchester County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, \$6,500 for New Signage in Kiosks on Bridge Over Taconic Parkway.

Westmoreland Sanctuary, Westchester County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, \$23,000 for the Raptor/Ridge Trail.

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 for maintenance of the Columbia County portion of the AHET.

Adoption of Conservancy Budget

Scott Keller noted that the Board had been given copies of the budgets for the Conservancy, Council and National Heritage Area in their packets. These include the Conservancy budget of \$3.5 million, \$2.3 million of which is projects for EST, the Council budget of \$380K, and the NHA budget of \$505K. The Conservancy budget includes operations, trail grants, and pass-through grants for HRNERR, as well as EST. The Council budget includes operations and planning and compact grants. The NHA budget includes operations, heritage development grants, the Ramble, Sponsorships, partnerships, promotional materials, GHHN Training workshops, and projects including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights project, Seven Sentinels Film, and new projects, Voices of the Revolution (an add-on to the app in preparation for the 250th of the Rev War) and a new website feature called Inspirational Figures of the Hudson Valley which will feature short bios and descriptions of the contributions of 20-25 HV figures from Indigenous Peoples to the near present.

Adoption of 2024 Budget Report for PARIS and Financial Plan

The Public Authorities Reporting Information System or PARIS requires public benefit corporations to submit annually and prior to their fiscal year end a Budget and Financial Plan. This is composed of two reports, a budget report and a budget request. These reports are both a high-level snapshot of anticipated revenues and expenses going out four years, a look at current year's estimates, as well as last year's actuals, and an anticipated budget for next year. The Board must adopt these reports and then the Greenway will post them on our website.

Trail Visitation Report

Mr. Keller announced that the Greenway had published its first Trail Visitation Report in March of 2023, focused on the 275-mile Empire State Trail section from New York City to Whitehall in Washington County – which is also designated the Hudson River Valley Greenway Trail (HRVG Trail). This “Year-One” report presents annual trail use data for 14 locations along the 275-mile Greenway Trail. In total, more than 1.25 million visits were counted across 14 sites. Copies of the Trail Visitation Report were included in Board Member packets, and it is available on the Greenway website.

Chair Kevin Burke called for a vote on the Trail designation, the monitoring grant, the trail grants, and the PARIS budget. On a motion from Stefan Yarabek (Sarah Olson second), the Trail designation, the monitoring grant, the trail grant applications, and the PARIS Budget were unanimously approved.

Chair Burke then called for a vote for both Boards on the budget. On a motion from Jennifer Carlquist (Linda von der Heide second), the budget was unanimously approved.

Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council

Call to Order

Chair Meg Downey called the Council meeting to order.

Community Council Compact Grants

Executive Director Scott Keller reviewed the Council Compact Grant applications which had been recommended for funding by the Grants Committee.

The Town of Amenia, Dutchess County, is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, \$7,500 for a Land Use Law Update.

Communities Council Grants

Mr. Keller reviewed the Communities Grant applications which had been recommended for funding by the Grants Committee.

The Town of North Greenbush, Rensselaer County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, \$10,000 for a Community Profile and Housing Assessment of Comprehensive Plan Update.

The Town of Westerlo, Albany County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, \$10,000 for a Codification of Local Laws (Zoning Code Update).

Chair Meg Downey called for a vote on the Greenway Compact and Communities grants recommended by the Grants Committee. On a motion from Wint Aldrich (Mary McNamara second), the grants were approved unanimously.

Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area (HRVNHA)

Call to Order

Chairs Kevin Burke and Meg Downey called the National Heritage Area (NHA) meeting to order.

National Heritage Area Heritage Development Grants

Executive Director Scott Keller reviewed the applications received which had been recommended by the Grants Committee.

Arm of the Sea Productions, Ulster County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends \$6,000 for Water! Paper! Power! A Saugerties Living History Project.

Parks and Trails NY, Albany County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends \$7,500 for the 2023 Cycle the Hudson Valley tour.

Update on Reauthorization Bill S-1942

Scott Keller reviewed the passage of S-1942. Congress passed, and President Biden signed the NHA System Act on January 5th. This legislation accomplishes three things:

1. It formalizes the NHA System within the NPS but does not make individual NHA's part of the NPS and does not affect the HRVNHA's existing administration.
2. It extends the HRVNHA's funding authorization until 2037.
3. It raises the HRVNHA's funding cap to \$1 million per year through 2037,

regardless of any other language limiting the budget to a total of \$15 or \$17 million in lifetime funding.

This clears up much uncertainty for the next 15 years and relies on Congress for annual appropriations but does not require Congress to renew funding authorization every two or three years. This passed in a strongly bipartisan fashion, in the senate by unanimous consent and in the house by a vote of 326-95.

Chair Meg Downey called for a vote on the Heritage Development Grants. On a motion from Stefan Yarabek (Sarah Olson second), the Heritage Development Grants were unanimously approved.

Executive Director's Report

Scott Keller gave his Executive Director's report. Mr. Keller referred to the inclusion of his annual report in the Board packet and on our website, noted that Shannon Day is going on maternity leave at the end of July, and thanked the staff for their dedication and hard work.

New Business

Chair Kevin Burke asked if any Board member or member of the public had any new business.

Betsy Jacks announced that the Thomas Cole National Historic Site would be featured in a series on WMHT called Reframing an Empire. Episodes air on Saturdays and are archived online.

Wint Aldrich announced that he had recently experienced the first railroad trip tour of the Copake Iron Works in Taconic State Park, funded in part by the Pomeroy Foundation. Mr. Aldrich noted that the Iron Works is one of the National Heritage Area sites that interprets the theme of Industry and Commerce.

Skip Piscitelli applauded the increased funding for Communities Council grants. Scott Keller noted that the Division of Budget had been very helpful in securing this increase.

Jennifer Carlquist announced that Boscobel's meadow restoration project, converting their lawn into a native meadow, has been initiated, and will take place over the next two years.

Kerry Sclafani of Greater Hudson Heritage Network announced that the ABC's of Collection Care, produced in partnership with the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, has been published and is now available to all Hudson Valley museums and archives.

Future Meetings

The 2023 Joint Board meetings are scheduled for:

- Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at Boscobel House and Gardens

- Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 11:06 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Campochiaro
Meeting Secretary