

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.  
December 6, 2024  
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**

Brown, Kristin Cole, Conservancy Member  
Burke, Kevin, Conservancy Chair  
Daniels, Jane, Conservancy Member  
Jacks, Betsy, Conservancy Vice-Chair  
Lanzetta, Cindy, Conservancy Member  
Williams, Jeanne, Conservancy Member

**Conservancy Members Present by Proxy**

Hinchey, Hon. Michelle, Senator - present via Zoom  
Idleman, Sara, Conservancy Member – present via Zoom  
McLaughlin, Jayne, Conservancy Treasurer – present via Zoom  
Murray, Dennis, Conservancy Member  
Olson, Sarah, Conservancy Secretary -present via zoom  
Weiss, Daniela, Conservancy Member  
Yarabek, Stefan, Conservancy Member

**Council Members Present**

Aldrich, J. Winthrop, Council Vice Chair, Meeting Chair  
Elliott, Robert, Westchester County Council Member  
Henry, Angela, Dutchess County Council Member

**Council Members Present by Proxy**

Altieri, Vincent, Rockland County Council Member – present via Zoom  
Beephan, Hon. Anil, Council Member  
Carlquist, Jennifer, Putnam County Council Member – present via Zoom  
Castillo, Carla, Council Member  
McNamara, Mary, Ulster County Council Member – present via Zoom  
Piscitelli, Anthony, New York City Council Member – present via Zoom  
Schneid, Matthew, New York City Council Member – present via Zoom

**Council Delegates Present**

Feeney, Ryan, Delegate for Assemblymember Eachus

**Joint Delegates Present**

Fernandez, Joanne, Joint Delegate for NYS Secretary of State  
Malave, Linda, Joint Delegate for Chair, Empire State Development  
McGlynn, Mark, Joint Delegate for Commissioner of NYS Office of General Services  
Wynter, Damali, Joint Delegate for Commissioner of NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets

**Joint Delegates Present by Proxy**

Turturro, Kelly, Joint Delegate for Commissioner, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation – present via Zoom

**Advisory Members Present via Zoom**

Croft, Scott, Hudson River Boat and Yacht Club Association

**Greenway Staff Present**

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

**Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 am by Chairs Kevin Burke and Meg Downey.

**Welcome and Introductions**

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

Amy Bracewell, Superintendent, welcomed everyone to the FDR Presidential Library and Museum, and noted the recent events at the library. On December 10<sup>th</sup>, the library celebrated the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with a Human Rights Expo, featuring a display of an authentic draft version of the UDHR penned by

Eleanor Roosevelt. Ms. Bracewell also noted the site's Holiday Open House, the newly restored Snuggery, and the very fruitful Home Garden, which provides produce to Dutchess County Outreach.

## Agenda Review

Chair Kevin Burke called for any comments on the agenda. No comments were made by Board Members. Chair Burke noted one update, that the Council grant on the agenda should read to the Village of Athens, not the Town.

Minutes of October 11, 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 October 11, 2023 Greenway Joint Meeting. On a motion from Bob Elliott, (Jane Daniels second) the minutes of the October 11, 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.

### Greenway Conservancy Trail Grants

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

The Open Space Institute Land Trust Inc., Orange County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, \$250,000 for the Schunnemunk Meadows ADA Accessible Trail.

The Town of Bedford, Westchester County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, \$50,000 for a Route 117 Multi-Use Trail Connectivity Design Plan.

The Village of Rhinebeck, Dutchess County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, \$18,000 for the Rhinebeck/Red Hook Bike/Hike Trails Rehab and EST Connection.

The Winnakee Land Trust Inc., Dutchess County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, \$104,500 for the Saw Kill-Red Hook Trail Phase II.

### Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) restoration project at Stockport Flats

Scott Keller explained that the submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) restoration project is part of a continuing partnership with the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve. The Greenway will accept and manage a \$125,000 grant from DEC to work with the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science to grow and plant test beds of SAV to help restore those that have been lost over the past years due to destructive flooding caused by hurricanes and other factors. The Greenway will receive its usual 10% administrative fee from these funds to cover the cost of the grant management services.

Chair Kevin Burke called for a vote on the trail grants and the SAV Grant. On a motion from Cindy Lanzetta (Besty Jacks second, the trail grant applications and the SAV grant were unanimously approved.

### Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council

#### Call to Order

Meeting Chair Wint Aldrich called the Council meeting to order.

#### Communities Council Grants

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

The Town of Chatham, Columbia County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, \$10,000 for a New Zoning Regulations, contingent upon the Town Board's adoption of the recently completed Comprehensive Plan.

The Town of Poestenkill, Rensselaer County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, \$10,000 for a Comprehensive Plan.

The Town of Athens, Greene County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, \$5,000 for an Athens Riverine Living Museum and Education Center.

Chair Meg Downey called for a vote on the Greenway Communities grants recommended by the Grants Committee. On a motion from Bob Elliott (Angela Henry second), the grants were approved unanimously.

### Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area (HRVNHA)

#### Call to Order

Chair Kevin Burke called the National Heritage Area (NHA) meeting to order.

### 2024 Budget Update

Executive Director Scott Keller noted that Congress has been unable to agree on a budget to date, but has passed continuing resolutions which will fund the NHA for nearly 1/3 of the 2024 federal fiscal year.

### 2023 Ramble Update

Scott Keller announced that 70% of 2023 Ramble event hosts have reported attendance numbers, a large enough number that the data can be extrapolated to provide overall numbers. There were 156 registered events, 20 of which were cancelled, mostly due to being rained out, including some with one or more rain dates that were also rained out. For the 136 events that did occur, there were an average of 267 participants per event and a total of more than 36,000+ participants, an increase of over 7,000 from the 2022 Ramble. Staff feels this demonstrates the continuing recovery of this event from the pandemic and, when combined with cost savings from a limited guidebook print run, this is an event well worth continuing. The NHA's average cost per attendee is \$0.70, exclusive of staff time.

### Executive Director's Report

Scott Keller gave his Executive Director's report, which is included here:

"Andy Bicking has informed the Chairs that he is resigning from the Advisory Board. He is unable to be here this morning, but asked me to read the following statement from him.

'The Hudson River Valley has been dear to me professionally and personally for over 25 years, and participating with the Greenway has been a highlight during this time. It is therefore with feelings of both gratitude and clear-eyed sense of purpose that comes only with big life decisions, that I'm writing to share my resignation from the Advisory Board. I'm looking forward to a new chapter in my career as Executive Director of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association ([www.ctwoodlands.org](http://www.ctwoodlands.org))

I'll cherish many memories from this time, from helping to kick-off the Great Hudson River Ramble and Great Hudson River Paddle many years ago, to defending the very existence of the agency during some particularly challenging moments, and being provided many wonderful opportunities to learn about and promote the region we all hold dear.

The heart and soul of my time working in the Hudson Valley has always been the people -- It's taken partnership, trust and understanding to advance our shared goals. I will forever be grateful for the spirit of shared endeavor and the friendship the Greenway boards and staff have provided."

Executive Director Scott Keller's remarks continued below:

"As always, please join me in thanking the staff for their hard work. Your support for them will be even more important as we move through the process of hiring a new ED; as will be their support for that person.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights 75th anniversary celebration will take place on December 10, right here at the Wallace Center."

#### Update on Search for New ED

Chair Kevin Burke updated the Board on the search for a new Greenway Executive Director. Chair Burke noted that G. Angela Henry has been a guiding force in this process. He also noted that while Scott Keller will be on board with the Greenway until March 28<sup>th</sup>, the search committee hopes to narrow the field of candidates by January and begin interviews.

#### New Business

Chair Kevin Burke asked for any new business from meeting attendees.

Priscilla Brendler, Executive Director of Greater Heritage Hudson Network, reviewed the 2023 programming they had completed with sponsorship from the HRVNHA. The Stone Strategies Workshop focused on preservation and conservation of historic cemeteries. The ABCs of Collection Care, a book detailing how to preserve and care for many types of historic collections, sold out its first printing and is now in a second printing. The book is available at museum gift shops.

Wint Aldrich encouraged board members to spread the word about upcoming Board Meetings, because they are such a valuable educational forum.

Jennifer Carlquist announced that Boscobel's reconfiguration of their entrance was aided by a Greenway funded feasibility study, and now can move forward with a \$250,000 Regional Development Council grant. This new configuration will allow Boscobel to welcome visitors more safely.

#### Future Meetings

The next Joint Board meeting is scheduled for:

- Wednesday, March 6, 2024

#### Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 10:43 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Campochiaro  
Meeting Secretary