

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 9, 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**

Burke, Kevin, Conservancy Chair  
Daniels, Jane, Conservancy Member  
Hinchey, Hon. Michelle, Senator  
Lanzetta, Cindy, Conservancy Member  
Olson, Sarah, Conservancy Secretary  
Yarabek, Stefan, Conservancy Member

### **Conservancy Members Present by Proxy**

Brown, Kristin Cole, Conservancy Member – present via Zoom  
Jacks, Betsy, Conservancy Vice-Chair  
McLaughlin, Jayne, Conservancy Treasurer  
Murray, Dennis, Conservancy Member

### **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, Assemblymember  
Elliott, Robert, Westchester County Council Member  
Henry, Angela, Dutchess County Council Member  
Porr, Johanna, Orange County Council Member  
von der Heide, Linda, Rensselaer County Council Member

### **Council Members Present by Proxy**

Altieri, Vincent, Rockland County Council Member – present via Zoom  
McNamara, Mary, Ulster 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**

Cooper, Linda, Joint Delegate for Commissioner, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
Landfried, Susan, 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

### **Joint Delegates Present by Proxy**

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

### **Greenway Staff Present**

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

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairs Meg Downey and Kevin Burke led the pledge of allegiance.

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Burke and Chair Downey welcomed the Board and meeting attendees.

Bill Harris, Director of the FDR Library, welcomed everyone to the FDR Presidential Library and Museum and noted the exhibits and recent events at the library.

The Board and meeting attendees introduced themselves. Chairs Burke and Downey introduced the Hudson River Valley Greenway's new Executive Director, Andy Kitzmann.

## **Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:14 am by Chairs Kevin Burke and Meg Downey.

## Remembrance of David Sampson

Chair Meg Downey and Council Member Bob Elliott remembered former Greenway Council director David Sampson, who passed away in May. Sampson is credited as one of the architects of the Hudson River Valley Greenway, helping to outline and then bring into being the unique state agency.

## Board Member Updates

Chairs Meg Downey and Kevin Burke noted the recent changes in Board membership. Jayne McLaughlin, Assembly Minority Leader representative, was reappointed to the Conservancy. James Gaughan, Albany County representative, was appointed to the Council. Susan Landfried was named a Joint Delegate for Secretary of State. Chair Downey read a Certificate of Recognition for Betty Head, who had retired from her position as Albany County representative to the Council.

## Agenda Review

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

## Minutes of March 6, 2024 and April 19, 2024 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 6, 2024 and April 29, 2024 Greenway Joint Meeting. On a motion from Bob Elliott, (Linda von der Heide second) the minutes of the March 6, 2024 and April 9, 2024 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.

## Corrected minutes of December 6, 2023, Joint Meeting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council, Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Inc. and Greenway Heritage Conservancy HRV, Inc.

Chair Burke called for a motion to approve the corrected minutes of December 6, 2023, in which the date had been incorrectly listed. On a motion from Wint Aldrich (Bob Elliot second), the corrected minutes of the December 6, 2023, Joint 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 Andy Kitmann reviewed the applications for Greenway Conservancy Trail Grants which had been recommended for funding by the Grants Committee.

The Palisades MTB, Orange County, is seeking grant funding in the amount of in the amount of \$67,000 for the Red Back Trail Realignment and Upgrade, Sterling Forest State Park. The Committee recommends \$67,000. Seth Reichland, Chair of the Palisades MTB, thanked the Board for their consideration and noted that the resulting trail would be of great benefit to the community.

The Town of Hyde Park, Dutchess County, is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$33,750 for the New Guinea Community Cultural Resource Management Plan and Trail Design. The Committee recommends \$33,750. Rob Pollard, Town of Hyde Park Parks and Recreation Director, thanked the Board for their consideration and noted the importance of this project to the Town.

The Town of Yorktown, Westchester County, is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$5,375 for the North Country Trail. The Committee recommends \$5,375 with a special award condition that the Town acknowledge our grant contribution with signage in the garden. Jane Daniels noted that she resides in the Town of Yorktown, and abstained from the vote on this grant.

The Town of Moreau, Saratoga County, is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$25,000 for Big Bend Trail Winter Access. The Committee recommends \$25,000 with the special award condition that Greenway funds can only be used to purchase winter grooming equipment. Joshua Westfall, Building, Planning and Development Coordinator for the Town of Moreau, thanked the Board for their consideration, and noted that this project would expand recreational opportunities in the winter.

The Town of Red Hook, Dutchess County, is seeking funding in the amount of \$75,000 for the Red Hook 2024 Saw Kill Trail Linkage Project. The Committee recommends \$75,000. Sarah Olson abstained. Supervisor Robert McKeon thanked the Board for their consideration and noted that this project is a continuation of the Saw Kill Trail and the links it would create.

The Town of Halfmoon, Saratoga County, is seeking funding in the amount of \$55,000 for a Halfmoon Trail Feasibility Study. The Committee recommends funding in the amount of \$55,000. Rich Harris, Planner for the Town of Halfmoon, thanked the Board for their consideration, and noted that Halfmoon is committed to expanding their trail system and increasing walkability.

Chair Kevin Burke called for a vote on the Greenway Conservancy Trail Grant applications. On a motion from Stefan Yarabek (Jane Daniels second) the Greenway Conservancy Trail Grants were unanimously approved.

#### Designate Andy Kitzmann as Check Signer

Chair Burke noted that a vote is needed to authorize Andy Kitzmann, Executive Director, to be a signer on the Conservancy's bank accounts. Chair Burke called for a vote. On a motion from Sarah Olson (Stefan Yarabek second), the Conservancy Board unanimously approved Andy Kitzmann as a signer on the Conservancy's bank accounts.

#### Greenway Audit

Andy Kitzmann noted that the audit of the Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley Inc. and the Greenway Heritage Conservancy, Inc. were clean with no management letter. Mr. Kitzmann noted that Scott Keller had been in charge of the finances for this time period, and that it is a testament to his dedication and accuracy that the audit went smoothly.

#### Empire State Trail Use Report

Cody Arana, Event Coordinator for the Greenway, gave a presentation on the trail user data that has been collected on the Hudson Valley portion of the Empire State Trail. Cody also recognized Conservancy Board Member Jane Daniels, who has completed the Hudson Valley portion of the trail on foot with her husband Walt, going section by section. Mr. Arana's presentation is appended to and a part of these minutes.

## Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council

#### Call to Order

Chair Meg Downey called the Council meeting to order.

#### Communities Council Compact Grants

Andy Kitzmann reviewed the Compact Grant applications which had been recommended for funding by the Grants Committee.

The Village of Briarcliff Manor is seeking funding in the amount of \$20,000 for a Comprehensive Plan Update. The Committee recommends finding in the amount of \$20,000. Josh Ringel, Village Manager, thanked the Board for their consideration and noted that the Comprehensive Plan was an important project for the Village.

#### Communities Council Grants

Andy Kitzmann reviewed the Communities Grant applications which had been recommended for funding by the Grants Committee.

The Village of Millerton, Dutchess County, is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$7,500 for the Century Boulevard Redevelopment. The Committee recommends \$7,500. Dave Sherman,

Trustee for the Village, thanked the Board for their consideration and noted the benefits such a study would bring to improving walkability in Millerton.

The Town of Greenville, Greene County, is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$8,000 for a Comprehensive Plan Update. The Committee recommends funding in the amount of \$8,000.

The Town of Kinderhook, Columbia County, is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$11,500 for Comprehensive Plan Update 2024/2025. The Committee recommends finding in the amount of \$10,000, which is the maximum allowable in this grant program. Sally Naramore, Town Council member, thanked the Board for their consideration, and noted the benefits that a comprehensive plan update would bring to the Town.

Chair Meg Downey called for a vote to award the Greenway Compact and Greenway Communities grants recommended by the Grants Committee. On a motion from Bob Elliott (Carla Castillo second), the grants were approved unanimously. Chair Meg Downey recused herself from the vote on the Millerton grant.

## 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.

### Hudson River Valley Ramble Update

Beth Campochiaro gave an update on the 2024 Hudson River Valley Ramble. Highlights of the Ramble this year included the registration of 176 events, with the contributions of over 100 partner organizations; a 70% increase in Ramble website traffic over 2023; and a targeted advertising campaign with the Times Union, which included print, online and streaming service advertising. Beth thanked all of the Ramble's partner organizations, especially the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Hudson River Estuary Program, and the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

### Sponsorship Program Update

Project Director Dan Jeanson gave an update of the National Heritage Area Sponsorship program. Dan noted that the program had received 31 applications totaling \$130,00 for the fall round, and had awarded \$29,000 to 20 awardees for an average of \$1,400. Due to the large demand, the maximum sponsorship amount will be lowered to \$2500 for the spring round.

### Hudson River Train Tour Mobile App Update

Dan Jeanson gave an update on the Hudson River Train Tour Mobile App usage and enhancements. Dan played an excerpt from a new audio story that had been added to the app called "Feeding a Revolution," a story on food. Dan also announced that usage was up 35% YTD over 2023, and that the app has been used by people from over 40 states and 15 countries since the 2018 launch.

### Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Andy Kitzmann gave his Executive Director's report. His report is appended to and a part of these minutes.

## Future Meetings

The next Joint Board meeting are scheduled for:

- Monday, December 9, 2024 at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in Catskill.

## Old Business

Chair Meg Downey asked for any old business. No comments were made.

## New Business

Chair Kevin Burke asked for any new business from the Board. Jennifer Carlquist gave an update on the restoration of the ceiling at Boscobel following a collapse. She also noted that they held a successful Meadows Symposium.

## Public Comment

Chair Meg Downey asked for any public comment. No comments were made.

## Motion to Adjourn

Chair Meg Downey called for a Board Member to make a motion to adjourn. On a motion from Jane Daniels (G. Angela Henry second), the motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Campochiaro  
Meeting Secretary