

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 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
Jacks, Betsy, Conservancy Vice-Chair
Idleman, Sara, Conservancy Member
Lanzetta, Cindy, Conservancy Member
McLaughlin, Jayne, Conservancy Treasurer
Williams, Jeanne, Conservancy Member

Conservancy Members Present by Proxy

Daniels, Jane, Conservancy Member – present via Zoom
Hinchey, Hon. Michelle, Senator - 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
Altieri, Vincent, Rockland County Council Member
Carlquist, Jennifer, Putnam County Council Member
Downey, Meg, Council Chair
Elliott, Robert, Westchester County Council Member
Henry, Angela, Dutchess County Council Member
McNamara, Mary, Ulster County Council Member
Porr, Johanna, Orange County Council Member
von der Heide, Linda, Rensselaer County Council Member

Council Members Present by Proxy

Beephan, Hon. Anil, Council Member

Castillo, Carla, Council Member

Head, Betty, Albany County Council Member – present via Zoom

Piscitelli, Anthony, New York City Council Member – present via Zoom

Council Members on Zoom

Eachus, Hon. Christopher, Assemblymember

Schneid, Matthew, New York City Council Member

Council Delegates Present

Feeny, Ryan, Delegate for Assemblymember Eachus

Hammond, Sean, Delegate for Assemblymember Beephan

Joint Delegates Present

Fernandez, Joanne, Joint Delegate for NYS Secretary of State

MacMillan, Lance, Joint Delegate for Commissioner, NYS Department of Transportation

Malave, Linda, Joint Delegate for Chair, Empire State Development

McGlynn, Mark, Joint Delegate for Commissioner of NYS Office of General Services

Turturro, Kelly, Joint Delegate for Commissioner, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Wynter, Damali, Joint Delegate for Commissioner of NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets

Advisory Members Present

Croft, Scott, Hudson River Boat and Yacht Club Association

Greenway Staff Present

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 10:01 am by Chairs Kevin Burke and Meg Downey.

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.

Amy Bracewell, Superintendent, welcomed everyone to the FDR Presidential Library and Museum, and noted the exhibits and recent events at the library. Ms. Bracewell also

noted that Top Cottage would be opening in the summer.

The Board and meeting attendees introduced themselves.

Presentation to Scott Keller

Wint Aldrich read a proclamation in honor of the retirement of Executive Director Scott Keller. Mr. Aldrich, along with Chairs Downey and Burke, presented Mr. Keller with an engraving of a painting by Thomas Cole as a gift on the occasion of his retirement.

Sean Hammond, representing Assemblymember Beephan, presented Mr. Keller with a citation from the State Assembly, organized by Assemblymembers Beephan and Eachus, recognizing Scott Keller's contributions to the Hudson River Valley.

Amy Bracewell presented Scott Keller with a National Park Service Arrowhead Plaque in recognition of his service to the Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area.

Mr. Keller expressed his thanks for the gifts and the recognition of his work. Mr. Keller spoke about his time at the Greenway and how much it has meant to him.

Appointment of Interim Executive Director

Chairs Burke and Downey announced that, as the search for the new Executive Director was still ongoing, they suggested that Elizabeth (Beth) Campochiaro, Trails and Community Outreach Director, serve as Interim Executive Director beginning March 29, 2024. Chair Downey called for a vote on the Interim Executive Director. On a motion from Bob Elliott (Linda von der Heide second), the Interim Executive Director was unanimously approved.

Beth Campochiaro thanked the Board for their trust in her and assured them that she would work closely with the staff to continue the work of the Greenway until the new Executive Director was found. Ms. Campochiaro also thanked Mr. Keller for his many years of leadership and noted that he would be greatly missed by the entire staff.

Presentation

Heather Gierloff, NYSDEC Hudson River Programs Supervisor and Estuary Coordinator, gave a presentation on the ways in which the Greenway and the Hudson River Estuary Program work in tandem to benefit the communities of the Hudson River Valley. Her presentation is appended to and a part of these minutes.

Agenda Review

Chair Kevin Burke called for any comments on the agenda. No comments were made by Board Members. Chair Burke noted that the agenda has as an item the approval of the June 14, 2023 minutes, but the item should read approval of the December 6, 2023 minutes.

Minutes of December 6, 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 December 6, 2023 Greenway Joint Meeting. On a motion from Bob Elliott, (Kitty Brown second) the minutes of the December 6, 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.

Designation of Greenway Trail

Executive Director Scott Keller announced that the Town of Red Hook, Dutchess County, had requested designation of the 7.25-mile Village to Village Connector Trail.

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 Village of Pleasantville, Westchester County is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$18,387.20 for the Nannahagan Park Walkway Improvement Project. The Grants Committee recommends \$18,300.

The Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail, Columbia County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, \$12,500 for Albany-Hudson Electric Trail Maintenance in Columbia County (excluding village of Kinderhook), and areas of tall vegetation in the Town of Schodack, Rensselaer County.

The Rensselaer Plateau Alliance, Rensselaer County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, \$7,500 for the AHET Maintenance in the Town of Schodack.

Accept 2022-23 Audit

Scott Keller noted that the Greenway had received the audit for the 2022-23 fiscal year, which was delayed when the previous auditor was forced to drop the Greenway as a client due to a lack of staff. It took some time to find a new auditor, but the new auditors, Lutz, Selig & Zeronda, have completed their audit and issued a clean opinion, with no management items or adjusting entries. Mr. Keller thanked Mary MacKrell and Kellie Harrison who performed the audit and were very professional and easy to work with.

Adopt 2022-23 PARIS Annual Report

Mr. Keller then announced that with the completion of the audit, the Greenway was able to finalize its report to the Public Authorities Reporting Information System, or PARIS. This report comprises the bulk of the Board's information packet, which was sent prior to the meeting. The Board needs to adopt the report as submitted.

Adopt 2024-25 PARIS Budget

Scott Keller noted that the Greenway must also submit a multi-year budget to PARIS which the Board also has to adopt. This is also included the Board packet but is only two pages. The state funding levels are not yet known, nor what other grants the Greenway might receive in out years, so this budget is more of an estimate.

AHET Trail Usage Report

Scott Keller reported that Andy Beers and Cody Arana had prepared a report on use of the Albany-Hudson Electric Trail throughout 2023. The Greenway has deployed counters at locations along the trail in both 2022 and 2023. The results obtained from those 8 counters are:

Town of East Greenbush (West): 45,288 visits

Town of East Greenbush (Southeast): 54,555 visits

Town of Schodack: 26,059 visits

Village of Nassau: 31,798 visits

Hamlet of North Chatham: 33,379 visits

Niverville: 29,022 visits

Village of Kinderhook: 48,506 visits

Stuyvesant Falls: 19,469 visits.

Data for 2024 is currently being collected, and with that year's data the Greenway will have three full years, giving a fuller picture of what the annual trail use is.

Chair Kevin Burke called for a vote to approve the trail designation, award the trail grants accept the audit findings, adopt the PARIS Annual Report for 2022-23 and adopt the 2024-25 PARIS budget. On a motion from Betsy Jacks (Jeanne Williams second), these actions were unanimously approved.

Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council

Call to Order

Chair Meg Downey called the Council meeting to order.

Communities Council Compact Grants

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

The Town of East Fishkill, Dutchess County, is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, grant funding in the amount of \$25,000 for a 2024 Comprehensive Master Plan Update.

East Fishkill Town Supervisor Nicholas D'Alessandro thanked the Board for their consideration of the Town's application.

The Village of Irvington, Westchester County, is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, grant funding in the amount of \$25,000 for a River Towns Feasibility Study of Food Scraps Collection.

Irvington Village Administrator Lawrence Schopfer thanked the Board for their consideration of the application.

Communities Council Grants

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

The Town of Easton, Washington County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, grant funding in the amount of \$8,500 for the study and implementation of a Green Energy Law.

The Town of Gallatin, Columbia County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, grant funding in the amount of \$10,000 for a 2024 Zoning Law Update.

Scott Keller read a statement from Gallatin Town Supervisor John C. Reilly thanking the Board for their consideration of the application.

The Town of Greenwich, Washington County is seeking, and the Grants Committee recommends, grant funding in the amount of \$15,000 for a Town and Village of Greenwich Zoning Update.

Chair Meg Downey called for a vote to award the Greenway Communities grants recommended by the Grants Committee. On a motion from G. Angela Henry (Bob Elliott 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.

Shaken and Stirred

Executive Director Scott Keller noted that the Alliance of National Heritage Areas is putting together a book of cocktails that are representative of each participating heritage area. A small sample of the draft publication is in the Board packet. The MDHHRVNHA submission is called Corridor of Commerce Cider (page 24) and is a rich concoction of Hudson Valley products, including apple cider, bourbon and maple syrup (and a little non-locally sourced lemon juice to balance the sweetness). Many thanks to Dan Jeanson who took the lead on coming up with this recipe.

Appropriation Update

Scott Keller announced that final appropriations bill has been released by House and Senate Appropriations Committee. This will likely be voted on by this Friday. Funding for Heritage Partnership Program is \$29.232 million. This is level funding from FY 23. Language in the bill directs the National Park Service to disperse funding such that no heritage area receives less than in fiscal year 2023.

Executive Director's Report

Scott Keller gave his Executive Director's report:

- “• I am deeply honored and appreciative of all the kind thoughts expressed here today and over the last few months by people in the room, on Zoom, and by many more not here today. Thank you.
- I want to thank all the Boards members, staff, agency partners, municipal officials, volunteers, and members of the public who have made the past 38 years so special for me and enabled us, the Greenway, to accomplish great things.
- I want to thank my family for putting up with the long hours and missed birthdays, anniversaries, and other special events that those of us in public service are so often unable to attend due to work demands.
- I think Wint covered the highlights, and I will not keep you longer by going over everything we did, but please know I will always treasure the time we had and the things we accomplished working together.

Please let us close, as is tradition, by thanking our staff for the tremendous work that they do each and every day.”

Update on Search for New ED

Chair Meg Downey updated the Board on the search for a new Greenway Executive Director. Chair Downey noted that, along with herself and Chair Kevin Burke, the Executive Committee of Wint Aldrich, Besty Jacks, Sarah Olson and Jayne McLaughlin had been conducting the search with advice from G. Angela Henry. While Scott Keller had not been involved in the search at all, the committee had sought input from the rest of the Greenway staff on what things would be important for a new Executive Director to consider and focus on. From the 57 applications received, the committee conducted 15 initial interviews, and planned a second round of interviews with a small number of candidates. An unscheduled Board Meeting will be called when a final candidate is identified, and the Board will meet to approve the recommendation of the Executive Committee. It is also expected that a strategic plan will be drafted once the new Executive Director is on board.

Future Meetings

The next Joint Board meeting are scheduled for:

- June 12, 2024

- October 9, 2024
- December 11, 2024

Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Campocharo
Meeting Secretary