

Historic Hudson - Hoosic Rivers Partnership



September 25, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Saratoga Town Hall, 12 Spring Street, Schuylerville, NY

In Attendance

Teri Ptacek, Gov. Appointee

Maria Trabka, Saratoga PLAN

Julie Stokes, Gov. Appointee

Kay Tomasi, Senate Appointee

Joe Durkin, Rensselaer Land Trust

Tom Richardson, City of Mechanicville

Tom Wood, Town of Saratoga

Dave Perkins, Champlain Canalway Trail Working Group

Charles Vandrei, NYSDEC – Lands + Forests

Paul Marlon, Town of Halfmoon

Keith Swensen, Friends of the IBA

Brit Bassinger, Chazen Companies

Amy Bracewell, Saratoga NHP

Brian Mumford, Friends of Saratoga Battlefield

Michelle DeGarmo, Flatley Read

Andrew Alberti, Lakes to Locks Passage

Tom Richardson opened the meeting at 10:10am with welcome and introductions, and declared a quorum was present.

1. Previous Minutes

Julie S. moved to approve both the June and August minutes, Kay T. seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

2. Friends of the IBA Presentation

Keith Swensen gave a short presentation on the Friends of the Important Birding Area (FIBA) in application of membership to the partnership.

3. Gateway Visitors Center

Tom Richardson reported that bids have gone out for work to enclose the building. We are still waiting on the \$200,000 and \$250,000 appropriations.

4. Saratoga Surrender Site Update

Brian Mumford reported that the management agreement has been completed and signed by the Friends and the Partnership.

There is to be a groundbreaking press event on October 17 at 1130am with dignitaries and major donors. Partnership members are invited to attend.

Significant progress has been made with the fundraising. The Friends plan to announce their progress at the October 17 event.

Brian requested that members of the Partnership assist with the project by helping to identify and introduce the Friends to potential donors.

5. CCT Supervisor's and Mayor's Meeting

Dave Perkins reported that the meeting was very successful. The infusion of Empire State Funds will help complete the trail between Waterford and Fort Ann. Dave also reported that Whitehall was successful in gathering match for the grant application to explore opportunities for the Fort Ann to Whitehall connection.

6. Personnel Work-Group

Tom Richardson called for the formation of a workgroup that establishes roles and responsibilities of paid contractors and volunteers. Workgroup members include Kay Tomasi, Joe Durkin, and Drew Alberti. Drew identified and the board noted that he has several conflicts, but asked him to join the workgroup anyway. The workgroup is to present a report at the November meeting.

7. Whistleblower Policy

Drew distributed the draft Whistleblower Policy for the board review. Joe D. identified that adopting a policy is only mandatory for non-profits exceeding \$1mil in revenue, but that having a policy is advisable. Kay also commented that the bylaws calls for a conflict of interest and whistleblower policy. The policy is to be reviewed and voted upon at the next meeting.

8. Siege Trail Walk

Julie S. reported that there is a new opportunity to purchase the land at the far end of the Saratoga Siege trail creating an outlet that could link to Victory Woods and the Saratoga Surrender Site.

9. Original Canal in Schuylerville Walk

Julie S. reported that she walked the old canal with several local representatives. They identified that there is a series of impediments preventing water flow and that the stagnant water has an odor. Samples were taken and testing is in progress for contaminants. If no contaminants are present then the canal can be dredged.

10. Other business

Michelle D. distributed a financial report. She indicated that the parks money will hopefully be available by November.

Michelle D. also reported that she is working with the insurance company to do a workman's comp policy review. She identified that we may have overpaid and hope to get a refund.

Julie S. identified that the board did not review the extension of Joe Finan's agreement to work as Special Projects Director. He was to send the previous agreement for review and update.

Teri P. identified that ASA is working with the Town of Fort Ann to preserve Battle Hill.

Teri P. distributed the announcement for the annual Landscapes for Landsake sale and art exhibition to be held October 7-9.

Drew A. reported that he and Joe F. spoke to Tom W. about doing a public presentation on the gateway visitor's center at the Town of Saratoga Board Meeting October 11 at 7pm.

11. Next Meeting

Monday October 30, 2017, 10am.

12. Adjournment

Kay T. made the motion to adjourn, Maria T. seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Respectful submitted by Drew Alberti