

Historic Hudson - Hoosic Rivers Partnership



January 29, 2018

Meeting Minutes

Saratoga Town Hall, 12 Spring Street, Schuylerville, NY

In Attendance

Joe Durkin, Rensselaer Land Trust

Kay Tomasi, Senate Appointee

Julie Stokes, Governor Appointee

Teri Ptacek, ASA

Maria Trabka, Saratoga PLAN

Tom Wood, Town of Saratoga

Tom Richardson, City of Mechanicville

Tim Holmes, Friends of Saratoga Battlefield

Peter Goutos, Saratoga Chamber of Commerce/Hudson River CAG

Todd Shimkus, Saratoga Chamber of Commerce

Amy Bracewell, Saratoga NHP

Wally Elton, Champlain Canalway Trail Working Group

Paul Marlow, Town of Halfmoon

Cindy Wian, Hudson Crossing Park

Kate Morse, Hudson Crossing Park

Lorraine Merghart Ballard, Battenkill Conservancy

Sasha Eisenstein, Canal Corporation

Keith Swenson, Friends of the IBA

Dave Perkins, Champlain Canalway Trail Working Group

John Sherman, Village of Schuylerville

Todd Kusnierz, Town of Moreau

Joe Finan, Partnership

Andrew Alberti, Flatley Read LLC

Tom Richardson opened the meeting at 10:05am with welcome and introductions, and declared a quorum was present.

1. Presentation by Todd Shimkus

Todd presented to the board information about the Chamber's trip to Globalfoundaries and cruise through Europe to demonstrate an example of a successful model for sustainable tourism along a waterway. He identified that the Chamber has been in touch with US Senator Chuck Schumer's office and Viking Cruises to explore opportunities for bringing a similar experience to the upper Hudson River and Champlain Canal Region. Tom R. agreed to reach out to Schumer's office to endorse the idea.

2. GVC Update

Joe F. reported that we did not receive neither of the REDC CFA grants were funded, nor was the Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Trust application. He identified that the Partnership is awaiting a contract for the OPRHP funds. Because there was no contract, the Community Loan Fund denied a construction bridge loan. Joe continues to work with Flatley Read to complete the necessary paperwork to get a contract for the OPRHP funds, and hunt down the \$250k from DASNY.

Kay T. reported that she followed up with Senator Betty Little regarding line-item funding, and that Senator Little's office requested a financial report. Tom Richardson directed Flatley Read to put together a financial report that outlines our funding history, funding needs, and an operations budget based on a \$300,000 budget.

Drew A. reported that Lorraine M.B. had volunteered to do a press release on the Gateway Visitors Center, but in light of the unfunded grants he suggested delaying such efforts. The board was in agreement.

3. Finance/Personnel Committee

Drew A. reported that Lakes to Locks Passage exceeded its 2017 budget for HHRP administration and has a financial shortfall as a result of limited municipal request returns that are applied to the budget. He identified that he would be reaching out to municipalities that did not reply to the municipal request.

Drew A. also disclosed that he is also currently employed by Flatley Read LLC. He warned that the board should be wary about assigning tasks that may have a billable hour attached to it.

4. Saratoga Surrender Site

Drew A. reported that that a Construction Committee has been established by Joe Finan, which includes Julie Rodriguez, Friends of Saratoga Battlefield (FOSB) administrator/procurement specialist, and Drew A., volunteer FOSB Board Treasurer. Drew will act as a liason between the construction committee and the fundraising committee as the project works towards groundbreaking. Workshops are planned for donor recognition design and final steps for completing the site drawings.

5. Hudson River- Community Advisory Group

Julie S. reported that she joined Tom Wood and Dan Carpenter (Mayor of Village of Schuylerville) at a meeting with representatives of the EPA, DEC, Canal Corp, and DOH. EPA reported on draft results of the testing that the EPA/GE conducted in the original canal in the village. The playground and parking areas were non-detect but results in the original Champlain Canal showed toxic levels of 1.8ppm. The EPA was encouraged to consider dredging the original canal. The EPA requested that a plan demonstrating what the town and village could accomplish in recreation and economic development if the canal once again glowed with the river. They would like the plan in no more than six months.

Drew A. reported that Tom R. had been in communication with the Governor's press office regarding the Governor Cuomo's decision to sue to the EPA if they issue an all-clear on the dredging project. Tom

R. instructed Drew to write a letter of support and issue a statement to the press regarding the announcement.

Next Meeting

The next Meeting of the HHHRP is to be held on Monday February 26, 2018, 10am.

Adjournment

Kay T. moved to adjourn, Julie S. seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Respectful submitted by Drew Alberti