

HISTORIC HUDSON-HOOSIC RIVERS PARTNERSHIP

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Monday, April 1, 2019

9 am - note time

Conference Room on right before the regular meeting room

Saratoga Town Hall, 12 Spring Street, Schuylerville, NY

MISSION STATEMENT

The Partnership's mission is to preserve, enhance and develop historic, agricultural, scenic, natural and recreational resources and the significant waterways within the Partnership Region. Through the tradition of municipal home rule, the Partnership will foster collaborative projects with pertinent non-profit and governmental entities with an emphasis on both agricultural and open space protection, economic and tourism development and interpretation of our natural and cultural heritage.

Board Members Attending:

Tom Richardson, City of Mechanicville

Tom Wood, Town of Saratoga

Cindy Wian, Hudson Crossing Park

Kay Tomasi, Senate Appointee

Julie Stokes, Governor Appointee

Joe Durkin, Rensselaer Land Trust

Sara Idleman, Town of Greenwich

Bill Reynolds, Senate Appointee

Teri Ptacek, ASA

Also attending:

Joe Finan, HHHRP

Dan Carpenter, Village of Schuylerville Mayor

Chairman Tom Richardson called the meeting to order at 9:04. A quorum was present.

Chairman Richardson reported that he had signed the membership letters. A checking account will be opened by the Treasurer for administrative purposes.

Tom reviewed Drew Alberti's grants update:

- DASNY has asked that we provide updated cost estimates to complete the \$250,000 application. Either updated estimates from Saratoga Associates or quotes from qualified vendors are acceptable. I inquired whether there were any other red flags that we should be aware of before undertaking this exercise and expending additional funds, and they indicated that there were none.

- This week I received notice from DASNY of the award of a SAM grant from former Senator Kathy Marchione in the amount of \$400,000. We will need to complete the paperwork (same as before), including updated cost estimates for the funds.
- While working on the Town of Saratoga SAM grant, I identified a clause in the DASNY contract (Section 4b) that provides a means for the grant to pay on invoices rather than through reimbursement. This should alleviate some concerns about cash on hand and how we are to move forward with these grants.
- Joe Finan and I received notice from the HHRP insurance broker Rose and Kiernan that the 3-year term on our builders risk policy is going to expire on 6/1/19. I informed our rep that construction is still on-going and inquired about a proposed solution. As an alternative, I spoke to Dave Meager and Ryan Haig from Amsure and suggested we may enlist their help if R&K cannot assist us.
- Maria Trabka sent me the following request: Saratoga PLAN would like to inquire if we might use the visitor center for a tour of the local landscape we are planning for June 29th. The center would serve as a starting point for the tour mid-morning and an ending location for a reception in late afternoon. The reception would be outdoors, weather permitting, indoors if not. We would rent a port-a-john. We have liability insurance for events.
 - It was noted, according to a clause in the DASNY contract, that both grants would not have to go through the reimbursement procedure.
 - Joe Durkin indicated that the eligibility for a SAM grant is still questionable. Tom Richardson will talk with Senator Jordan's office before contacting the Commissioner of DEC.
 - The builders risk policy has been handled by Drew. The Board indicated that other quotes should be considered before extending the current policy.

Gateway Visitors Center:

- Tom Richardson spoke on behalf of Joe Finan. The grounds need to be cleared of garbage and construction materials. Construction will take place this summer.
- Sara Idleman has suggested that the "canal mule" be included in site planning. Greenwich had made the decision to not place the Lakes to Locks "canal mule" at a canal lock and would like to see it at the visitors center. She will verify that Lakes to Locks had given the "mule" to Greenwich and that they can decide the placement.
- Julie Stokes reported that the NY Power Authority/Canal Corp will be very informative and willing to accept questions. Town Supervisors should be encouraged to attend.

Partnership Classification:

- Joe Durkin emphasized the need for funding the operation of GVC. A definite classification of the Partnership is the first step. Drew will send a letter, prepared by Joe, to the DEC Executive Deputy Commissioner Kenneth Lynch, with a cc to Jeffrey Stefanko, Deputy Commissioner. Bill Reynolds volunteered to oversee the creation of a new letterhead for the Partnership.
- Tom Richardson, Joe Durkin, and Joe Finan will then go to DEC for a meeting.

Financial Report:

- Tom Wood reported a balance of \$28,252.01 in the Partnership account with the Town of Saratoga.
- The Partnership recovered investment made in siding that exceeded the amount needed. A few pieces were kept for repair.

New Business:

- The Board responded to an inquiry about the relationship of the Village of Schuylerville and the Partnership: the Partnership is not receiving any funding from the village.
- After discussion of a contract between the Village and the Partnership regarding the parking lot for the Empire State Trail head, Joe Durkin and Dan Carpenter will prepare a draft. The map of the EST needs to be updated. **Teri Ptacek made the motion at the 4/1/19 Board meeting, seconded by Sara Idleman, to authorize a site access permit to the Village of Schuylerville and allow construction of said parking lot and temporary maintenance until the GVC parking lot is constructed. Approval was unanimous.** The contract needs to be signed by April 22.

Secretary's Report:

- Consensus indicated that Board minutes are the official record for regular monthly meetings. Enrichment Program meetings present information about the area and offer tactics for carrying out our mission. The Annual Meeting is an official full membership meeting. Other official full membership meetings may be called during the year.
- Sara Idleman made the motion, seconded by Julie Stokes, to approve the Board minutes as presented. Motion carried.

GVC Update:

- Joe is putting together RFP's for utilities and carpentry contract procedures.
- He will be meeting with Janet Kennedy to discuss interpretation for GVC. The Battles of Saratoga, Ft. Hardy Park, and the Canalway will be featured in temporary panels.
- Site grading and prep work needs to be done for the EST.
- Code officials have said we do not need a sprinkler system.
- The anonymous gift of \$25,000 will cover water, utilities, and communications installations.

Sword Surrender Site: Joe Finan

- Work, which appears to be within budget, will commence in May. The memorial with a monolith base will be installed. Two obelisks, one for memorializing generals and one for listing donors, will be installed on either end of the memorial. The memorial has been funded by the Ft. Miller Group; SRN will do the trucking and landscaping with the guidance of Chuck Vandrei; and Adirondack Stone will do the face stone.
- **Bill Reynolds made the motion, seconded by Tom Wood, to approve the use of the GVC for a Saratoga PLAN tour on Saturday, June 29. Motion approved,** Maria should be informed that

construction will be ongoing at this time and to contact Joe Finan and Julie Stokes about possible construction issues.

Upcoming meetings:

The next Board meeting will be held at the Saratoga Town Hall in the conference room on April 29th at 9 am. A membership program meeting will be held at 10 am. NYS Power Authority/Canal Corp will do an in-depth presentation followed by a period for questions. Invite your Town Supervisors, Village Mayors, and others along the Hudson River to attend this important presentation.

On Tuesday, May28, Mark Keller will do a presentation about the Hudson River Valley and Hudson River Safety at Rogers Island Park in Fort Edward.

Teri Ptacek made the motion, seconded by Sara Idleman, to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Katharine Tomasi