

Historic Hudson-Hoosic Rivers Partnership

Membership Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2019

Saratoga Town Hall, 12 Spring Street, Schuylerville, NY

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
Teri Ptacek, ASA, Governor Appointee
Joe Durkin, Rensselaer Land Trust
Sara Idleman, Town of Greenwich
Bill Reynolds, Senate Appointee
Ed Knowski, Town of Stillwater

Also Attending:

Judy Wood-Zeno, Village of Stillwater
Frank Rooney, NYS Dept of Ag and Markets
David Bullard, The Marshall House
Andrew Alberti, Flatley Read
Tracey Clothier, LA Group
Joe Finan, HHHRP
Bob Radcliff, Erie Canalway NHC
Kate Morse, Hudson Crossing Park
Dave Woodin, Town of Waterford
Amy Bracewell, Saratoga National Park
David Miller, The LA Group
Ray Martin, Mechanicville
Paul Marlow, Town of Halfmoon
Paul Post, *Saratogian*
Maria Trabka, Saratoga Plan
Pamela Landi, Washington County Planning
John Ceceri, Adirondack Ultra Cycling
Sean Kelleher, Town of Saratoga Historian
Senator Jordan's Rep

Chairman Richardson called the meeting to order at 10:00 am with a quorum present. Introductions were made.

Tracey Clothier gave a power point presentation about the Champlain Canalway/Empire State Trail, an ad hoc group. It has many partners such as the Town of Stillwater, Washington County Planning and Saratoga County Planning. The Partnership area is an integral part of the Empire State Trail.

- Lakes to Locks Passage is providing the interpretive framework for the trail.
- Municipalities/businesses will be responsible for signage. There is grant support available for printing of brochures and digital outreach. Local connector trails will connect with the main trail.
- Projections include 8.65 million visitors a year.
- Success depends upon local marketing plans which should be started now. Common branding throughout the state will help in promotion efforts.

Tracey will email the plan to Drew who will forward it to Partnership members. There will be a July deadline for CFA application assisting with plan development. Tracey will approach the Canalway for ways the Partnership can help with the trail development. Drew will email Canalway Challenge and Water Trail information to Partnership members.

Chairman Richardson thanked Tracey for a first-rate presentation.

Secretary's Minutes – December 3, 2018 meeting minutes

- Julie Stokes requested the deletion of the sentence – Julie volunteered to participate in the decision making process for maintenance in bullet point 6 on page 3.
- Joe Durkin replaced bullet point 8 on page 3 with the following:
Drew Alberti stated that a pending DASNY grant application \$250,000 would fund construction needed to enable opening of the Visitor Center first floor. This grant application may require another review of the HHHRP corporation classification. If we are a not-for-profit, financial reports need to be available and tax returns filed. Joe D stated that we should not use the term '501 (c)(3)' when referring to HHHRP not-for-profit classification since that is a specific IRS tax designation which HHHRP has not filed for. Furthermore, currently we have an internal opinion about the HHHRP non-profit classification which is not binding on third parties such as the State. As we move forward perhaps it may be advisable to seek an opinion from a branch of the State, especially if we will be looking for a continuing source of operating revenue from the State budget. During this discussion it was pointed out that initially HHHRP seemed to function primarily as a regional planning council, but is evolving into more of an operational entity particularly with the Visitor Center. This evolution is what has triggered the review of HHHRP classification.
- Julie Stokes added Saratoga Plan to program presenters as mentioned in the 5th paragraph from the bottom on page 4.
- **Tom Woods made the motion, seconded by Sara idleman, to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion approved.**

Conflict of Interest Disclosures were distributed and collected.

Financial Report – Tom Woods

- The balance in the account managed by the Town of Saratoga is \$31,602.93.

Grants update – Drew Alberti

- Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner’s legislative grant of \$250,000 has been approved by the Ways and Means Committee. Hopefully, it will be approved by DASNY. These funds will be used for the completion of the 1st floor.
- There has been no follow up from the state regarding Kathy Marchione’s legislative grant of \$400,000.
- A Hudson Valley Greenway grant could provide funding for an upgrade of the Stewardship Plan. A Saratoga Community grant can be used as \$10,000 match money.

Classification of Partnership

- Joe Durkin added HHHRP is a unique non-profit corporation created by state legislation. There needs to be a third party opinion to determine its classification. An internal opinion is not binding. HHHRP is more like a public benefit corporation and is very similar to Pine Bush. Tom Richardson will ask another contact to pursue the matter. Sara Idleman suggested that Carrie Woerner make an appointment for a meeting with DEC. Senator Jordan’s rep suggested calling his office soon.

Membership Letters

- Letters requesting contributions to HHHRP are being prepared for mailing.

2019 Meetings

- Drew Alberti suggested two future programs: (1) NYSDEC and Emergency Management on Floodwater Mitigation and available grants. (2) Lakes to Locks Passage – Visitor Center interpretation and exhibits.

Announcements

- Joe Finan reported that guidelines to 5G Small Cell Deployment may jeopardize some home rule. Town Supervisors and planning boards need to be aware of these regulations. Ed Knowski added that this should be addressed before it is too late.
- Environmental Protection Fund Lobby Day is February 27.
- Friends of EPF Lobby Day is February 12.
- Trails Advocacy Day is March 4.

The next meeting will be held at the Saratoga Town Hall on February 25 at 10 am. ASA and Saratoga Plan will present a program.

Ed Knowski made the motion, seconded by Tom Woods, to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Katharine Tomasi, Secretary