

Historic Hudson-Hoosic Rivers Partnership

Membership Program Report

February 25, 2019

Saratoga Town Hall, 12 Spring Street, Schuylerville, NY

NOTE: No membership program is scheduled for March 25. The Board will be meeting at 9 am. The next membership program, the New York Power Authority/Canal Corporation presentation, will be held on Monday, April 29 at the Saratoga Town Hall.

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

Also attending:

Joe Finan, HHHRP
Andrew Alberti, Flatley Read
Dave Woodin, Town of Waterford
Keith Swensen, FITSA
Kate Morse, Hudson Crossing Park
Paul Marlow, Town of Halfmoon
Bret Basinger, Chazon Companies
Mike Horn, Saratoga Plan
Dave Perkins, CCTWG

Chairman Richardson welcomed members. All introduced themselves.

Program: Teri Ptacek, Executive Director of the Agricultural Stewardship Association (ASA) and Mike Horn, Conservation Director of Saratoga PLAN (PLAN)

- Teri's power point presentation described the history of the ASA and its many accomplishments in Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Washington Counties. A fact sheet about ASA is attached.
- Mike Horn shared the history and accomplishments of PLAN. It was formed in 2003 through a merger of the Saratoga Springs Open Space Project and the Land Trust of the Saratoga Region. The mission of PLAN is to preserve the rural character, natural habitats and scenic beauty of

Saratoga County so that their irreplaceable assets are accessible to all and survive for future generations.

- Landscapes, trails, and farmlands are included in this mission. 88.5% of the state funding goes for farmlands. This is not just a financial commitment; a love of the land makes it work. Stewardship of the land and active, documented monitoring also require financial support. Reports are necessary to maintain accreditation for the land trust.
- There is a stewardship fund supported by state and federal funding. Local governments can help to support these projects.
- Projects are often a complement for the national park service.

Chairman Richardson thanked Teri and Mike for the very informative program

Reports from Board meeting:

- The Secretary's Report was approved by the Board.
- Tom Wood reported that there is \$28,550.32 in the Partnership account with the Town of Saratoga. There is an outstanding bill of approximately \$1000.
- Projects
 1. Joe Finan reported that trash on the GVC site needs to be addressed. Currently construction work on GVC is at a standstill. Installation of utilities, funded by an anonymous donor, will be done when weather permits.
 2. Joe Finan reported that a letter of intent for Sword Surrender Site interpretative work has been approved.
 3. EST has agreed to put the trailhead and parking behind the GVC.
- Grant Updates:
 1. Tom Richardson reported about the \$250,000 Carrie Woerner legislative grant. It needs to be approved by DASNY before it goes back to the Ways and Means Committee for final approval.
 2. The legislative grant promised by former Senator Marchione is still viable. These funds can be used as match in applying for a Northern Border Regional Commission grant to help fund cost of GVC.
 3. A Hudson River Valley Greenway grant to update the Stewardship Plan can use in-kind services for a match.
- Clarification of Partnership Status: Joe Durkin is researching and working on a letter to DEC for clarifying the classification of the Partnership.
- Purchasing and Procurement Policy: The Board approved the proposed policy on Feb. 25, 2019.

Membership Letter:

- A membership letter will be sent this year. Joe Finan's summary of HHHRP history will accompany the letter.

Future Programs:

- The New York Power Authority/Canal Corporation will be featured on April 29th. PR is very important. Additional dredging is an issue for the Hudson/Canalway. It was suggested that we

extend an invitation to providers of services along the Hudson. It is important to emphasize support for the area and not just the GVC.

- Tom Richardson will contact Mark Keller for a program on March 25th.
- Other possible programs are the NYSDEC and Emergency Management on Flood Water Mitigation and Lakes to Locks Passage GVC Interpretation and Exhibits.

Announcements:

- Drew announced that a Lakes to Locks Passage Regional Guide Book will be available.

Tom Wood made the motion, seconded by Teri Ptacek, to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Katharine Tomasi