



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 24, 2021

Gateway Visitors Center

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 Supervisor

Kay Tomasi, Senate Appointee

Julie Stokes, Governor Appointee

Joe Durkin, Affiliate Member, Rensselaer Land Trust

Teri Ptacek, Governor Appointee, ASA

Bill Reynolds, Senate Appointee

Ed Knowski, Town of Stillwater Supervisor

Tom Wood, Town of Saratoga Supervisor

### Also attending:

Andrew Alberti, Flatley Read

Kate Morse

Cindy Wian

Gretchen Stark, CCTWG (Fort Ann)

Dave Roberts, Schuylerville Area Chamber of Commerce

Don Ward, Town of Greenwich

Tiara-Layna Brown

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

### Secretary's Report:

- Correction: Cindy Wian attended the April 24<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. **Julie Stokes made the motion, seconded by Teri Ptacek, to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.**

**Financial Report:**

- There is a balance of \$14,082.34 in the Partnership account managed by the Town of Saratoga.
- Drew Alberti reported that some bills such as water and web are pending. He requested reimbursement for those that he had personally paid.
- The Schuylerville Central School has committed to leasing the bottom floor for storage through September. They have started to remove the stored articles.

**Chairman's Report:**

- Tom Richardson reported that Senator Jordon is still helping with securing the \$400,000 grant. Joe Durkin will do some follow-up and Drew Alberti will provide structural information.
- Joe Durkin reported that the \$250,000 grant process is in the final stages. He advised that we make plans for just this amount at this time.

**Gateway Visitors Center:**

- Dave Roberts reported that we need a walkway and disability access to the building before we can legally open the "barn" with a static exhibit. The Schuylerville Chamber has used some of their funds to assist with landscaping. Tim Blanchard will mow and trim the grass.
- Julie Stokes reported that Carrie Woerner has called Dave Roberts and Tom Wood. She will sponsor a \$75,000 legislative grant to provide staffing for the opening of the GVC. The money will not be available until next year.
- Volunteers are needed to open GVC with a target date of June 19<sup>th</sup>. Ed Knowski will assist with the coordination of schedules before the grant money is available. Tom Wood suggested contacting various community groups for prospective volunteers. Consensus indicated that training and a handbook would be available for volunteers. 2 people will be scheduled for each time slot.
- Tom Wood will talk with the Schuylerville mayor and discuss coordinating GVC with the Village Visitors Center.
- Hudson Crossing Park Director Kate Morse has agreed to be the coordinator of GVC for 2021. Tiara-Layna Brown of Stillwater will be the administrator of volunteer schedules. Available Stillwater town grant money will provide some compensation to Hudson Crossing Park.
- The Towns of Stillwater, Saratoga, and Mechanicville may have available town grant monies to fund the installation of restrooms.

**Partnership Future Discussion Included:**

- The Partnership needs to finish GVC before seeking collaboration with other entities.
- Review the original mission of HHHRP.
- Consideration of regional railway loops in Partnership Region and VT.
- Need to include Schuylerville's role in the Revolution.
- Lauren Roberts will be starting a commission to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battles of Saratoga.
- Towns joining together to seek grants.
- Collaborate with local chambers of commerce.
- Consideration of the Empire State Trail.

- Display rack cards in GVC to showcase the area.
- ASA will have a new director selected from in house. Teri Ptacek will be retiring.
- Kate Morse reported that there were more than 25,000 to 30,000 visits to Hudson Crossing Park last year.
- Hudson River Side Park development in Greenwich is starting.
- Need improvements for the Surrender March Trail.
- Self-guided walks through Ft. Edward, Whitehall and FT. Ann.
- Victory Loop Trail development – apps for visitors.
- Seek open space for recreation in neighborhoods.
- Water access in Stillwater and trail development.

**New Business:**

- **A Board Meeting will be held at 9 am on Monday, June 28 at the Gateways Visitors Center in Schuylerville.**

**Teri Ptacek made the motion, seconded by Bill Reynolds, to adjourn.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Katharine Tomasi, Secretary