

# HISTORIC HUDSON HOOSIC RIVERS PARTNERSHIP



## **ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, November 22, 2021

Saratoga Town Hall

Schuylerville, NY 12871

## **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  
Tom Wood, Town of Saratoga Supervisor  
Teri Ptacek, Governor appointee  
Cindy Wian, Hudson Crossing Park  
Pam Fuller, Village of Greenwich  
Ed Knowski, Town of Stillwater

### Also attending:

Andrew Alberti, Flatley Read  
Dave Roberts, Schuylerville Area Chamber of Commerce  
Joe Finan, Manager of Special Projects  
Michelle De Garmo, Flatley Reid  
David Pitlyk, NYS Parks  
Keith Swenson, Grassland Bird Trust  
Marla Hodje, Mohawk Maiden Cruises  
Jose Hodje-Saavedra, Mohawk Maiden Cruises  
David Mathis, Canal Resident  
Lorraine Skibo, Saratoga Plan  
Kate Morse, Hudson Crossing Park

Bob Foster, SOC IT Towpath  
Marie Foster, SOC IT Towpath  
Valerie Collins, SOC IT Towpath  
Tom Holmes, Friends of Saratoga Battlefield  
David Woodin, Town of Waterford

Chairman Tom Richardson called the meeting to order at 10:15 am. A quorum was present.

**Chairman's Report:**

- Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner sent her regrets that she is unable to attend this meeting. Tom Richardson commended her for her continued support of HHHRP and especially for sponsoring the \$250,000 DASNY grant for the Gateway Visitors Center.
- Over the years grants have provided more than \$1 million to fund GVC.
- Plans are underway to complete the first floor of GVC and make it a destination for tourism information and interpretation of the regional natural and cultural heritage. Plans also include staffing on a regular basis for the 2022 season.
- Tom thanked Joe Finan and Dave Roberts for constructing the restroom this past summer.
- Contact is underway with Senator Jordan's office to follow-up the status of the Marchione grant.
- Projects completed in the past such as the restoration of the Dix Bridge and the construction of the Sword Surrender Site were reviewed.

**Election of Directors for the Class of 2024:**

- **Tom Wood made the motion, seconded by Teri Ptacek, to elect Ed Knowski, Bill Peck, and Cindy Wian as Directors for a 3-year term. Motion carried.**

**Open Discussion:**

- SOC IT, an organization of properties bordering the Old Canal and Empire State Trail, is working to clean the canal and provide ongoing maintenance.
  1. Bob Foster defined the problem of the fast, declining condition of the canal. Dave Roberts expressed the need for the coordination of local organizations to mobilize a voice in the cleaning of the canal. Names of users of the Empire State Trail could be a start in gathering supporters.
  2. \$1000 is needed to start the project and then \$10,000 to pay for planning. The Village of Schuylerville has agreed to be the contractor for the project but necessary, ongoing maintenance needs to be addressed.
  3. Clarification of jurisdictional obligations is needed. The Partnership owns some land along the Old Canal and Empire State Trail.
  4. The role of the Partnership is to advocate discussions but government action is needed to address issues such as the level of PCBs. Currently, levels are below established GE removal obligations but more removal is needed to clean the canal.
- Julie Stokes volunteered to contact EPA and request a presentation about background information for the general membership of the Partnership on January 24<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.

**The meeting was adjourned.**