



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 28, 2022

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

Joe Durkin, Affiliate Member, Rensselaer Land Trust

Tom Wood, Town of Saratoga Supervisor

Teri Ptacek, Governor appointee

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

Kate Morse, Hudson Crossing Park

David Woodin, Town of Waterford

David Bullard, The Marshall House

Leslie Morlock, NPS

Keith Swensen, Grassland Bird Trust

Chairman Tom Richardson called the meeting to order at 9:02 am. A quorum was present. Introductions were made.

Secretary's Report:

- **Ed Knowski made the motion, seconded by Pam Fuller, to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.**
- A Board Directory and 2022 Board meetings dates were included in the attendees' packets.
- Board members and affiliated staff were asked to complete their copy of the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement before leaving the meeting.

Financial Report:

- Ed Knowski reported that there is a balance of \$8,836.95 in the account managed by the Town of Saratoga.
- Joe Finan reported that a separate account can be opened for the operation of the Gateway Visitors Center (GVC).

Chairman's Report:

- Saratoga County has approved a contribution of \$15,000 toward 2022 staffing of GVC. When weather permits GVC will be open to the public. Hudson Crossing Park is teaming with the Village of Schuylerville and the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce (Todd Simkus) to staff GVC 7 days a week. Village volunteers/staff from the village visitors center will work from GVC this year. The village will pay its staff.
- Grants Update:
 1. Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner recommended making application to Canal Corp for a grant that would help finance HHHRP operating expenses. **Ed Knowski made the motion(22-1), seconded by Tom Wood, to make application for a \$24,000 grant from Canal Corp to help with GVC overhead. Motion carried.**
 2. **Teri Ptacek made the motion (22-2), seconded by Pam Fuller, that Tom Richardson, Ed Knowski, and Tom Wood have the authority to sign construction vouchers. Electronic signatures may be used. Motion carried.**
 3. DASNY, as it considers the contract for the \$250,000 Woerner grant, questions the upfront payment of bills by an account of the Town of Saratoga. Joe Durkin responded that HHHRP has a contract with the Town of Saratoga. This contract states that the town acts as the agent for managing Partnership funds. There is a separate account with separate bank reporting that administers the Partnership funds. We need to clarify this arrangement with DASNY. Michelle De Garmo, Drew, and Joe Durkin will work to resolve the issue. If necessary the Partnership will seek the assistance of Carrie Woerner.
- Issues with the Partnership EIN number need attention. Ed Knowski will address these issues.

Projects Report:

- Joe Finan and Dave Roberts report that they are proceeding with the GVC construction according to the Purchasing and Procurement Policy manual. Monies from the \$250,000 Woerner grant should cover expenses of finishing the 1st floor. The Partnership is responsible for making timely payments as the construction progresses. Procedures for state reimbursement need to be in place prior to construction.

Old Business:

- Ideas for programming are needed.
- A Membership Meeting will be held on Monday, March 28 at 10 am. David Tromp (DEC) will be contacted to do a presentation about the Old Champlain Canal.

New Business:

- Tom Richardson will address the Washington County Board again and promote the mission of HHHRP.
- David Bullard announced that The Marshall House will be sponsoring a symposium, “Women and War” on Saturday, May 14th.
- The 250th Anniversary celebration of the birth of USA will start this year. Planning has been taking place since 2019. Saratoga Historical National Park will have a major role in the celebration.
- Joe Finan emphasized that the Hudson River area is not a high priority for revitalization programs. Post dredging issues continue along the Champlain Canal and the Old Champlain Canal. Drew and Tom Wood will send a letter to the governor and request more attention be given to this area in the future.

Ed Knowski made the motion, seconded by Teri Ptacek, to adjourn the meeting.

The next Board Meeting will be held on Monday, March 28th at 9 am, A Membership meeting will follow at 10 am with a presentation about the Old Champlain Canal.

Respectfully submitted,
Katharine Tomasi, Secretary

2022 HHHRP APPROVED MOTIONS

2/28/22

22-1 Ed Knowski made the motion, seconded by Tom Wood, to make application for a \$24,000 grant from Canal Corp to help with GVC overhead. Motion carried.

22-2 Teri Ptacek made the motion, seconded by Pam Fuller, that Tom Richardson, Ed Knowski, and Tom Wood have the authority to sign construction vouchers. Electronic signatures may be used. Motion carried.