



## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, August 29, 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  
Kay Tomasi, Senate Appointee  
Ed Kinowski, Town of Stillwater Supervisor  
Pam Fuller, Village of Greenwich Mayor  
Teri Ptacek, Governor Appointee & ASA  
Joe Durkin, Affiliate Member, Rensselaer Land Trust  
Julie Stokes, Governor appointee  
Cindy Wian, Hudson Crossing Park  
Tom Wood, Town of Saratoga Supervisor

### Also attending:

Dave Roberts, GVC Construction Supervision Services Contractor  
Joe Finan, Manager of Special Projects  
David Pitlyk, NYS Parks  
Leslie Morlock, National Park Service  
Kate Morse, Hudson Crossing Park

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

**Secretary's Report:** Kay Tomasi

- Quorums were not present for the last 3 meetings.
  - **Julie Stokes made the motion, seconded by Ed Knowski, to accept the minutes of the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting as presented. Motion carried.**
  - **Julie Stokes made the motion, seconded by Ed Knowski, to accept the minutes of the May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting as presented. Motion carried.**
  - **Ed Knowski made the motion, seconded by Julie Stokes, to accept the minutes of the June 27<sup>th</sup> meeting as presented. Motion carried.**

**Chairman's Report:** Tom Richardson

- Saratoga National Historic Park received an historic marker from The Lafayette Trail, Inc. They are not authorized to install the trail marker on federal lands at this time. They have asked the Partnership to accept the marker and place it near the Philip Schuyler House. An existing sign was placed across from the Schuyler House around 1900. **Ed Knowski made the motion, seconded by Tom Wood, to accept The Lafayette Trail, Inc. sign from the National Park Service. Motion carried. (22-9)** It will be stored by the National Park Service until installment. The Village of Schuylerville has agreed to install and maintain the sign.
- Dave Roberts stated that 20 chairs have been donated to GVC by the National Park Service. There have been requests to use GVC space. Usage needs to be coordinated with Pam Fuller and her GVC Usage Committee. Recommendations for usage regulations need to be presented at the September meeting. Pam, Teri, and Kate will meet to discuss procedures including staff, maintenance, and length of open season. A process is in place to accept donations for usage.

**Financial Report:** Ed Knowski

- Ed reported that there is \$42,138.94 in the general operating fund and \$16,263.61 in the DASNY account. It is important to have a financial trail for all grants.
- Drew Alberti needs to submit a voucher on behalf of Flatley Read for his grant work.

**Grants Update:**

- The Partnership has received 2 loans from Saratoga County. One has been paid. Tom Richardson will work with Jim Thompson to access funding from the Marchione grant (\$400,000). This grant would be used to repay a \$250,000 loan from Saratoga County (2<sup>nd</sup> loan), and the remainder would be designated for the completion of GVC downstairs area.
- The Towns of Saratoga, Northumberland, Stillwater and the City of Mechanicville have each contributed \$2500 for a total of \$10,000 to enable management of GVC staffing.

**Projects Report:** Joe Finan

- There needs to be an estimate of maintenance cost for 4 seasons. Consideration of dues and usage payments may help to offset costs.
- An overview of the GVC's 2020-2022 expenses were distributed.
- 22 tables have been donated by the Schuylerville school district.

- GVC work has been completed with the exception of finishing carpentry, disabilities parking and accessibility, exterior painting, security/alarm system, and removal of tree hazards. Joe will communicate with the Board about upcoming transactions.

**Management of GVC:** Kate Morse

- GVC opened with the Turning Point Parade celebration. The village will pay staff workers through October. Hudson Crossing will cover any additional days.
- Kate commended the village for its collaboration. All has gone well and feedback is positive. Visitors should sign in. Currently, 5 to 12 visitors are stopping each open day.
- Tom Richardson thanked Kate for all her efforts in running GVC and Dan Carpenter for the village collaboration.
- A Grand Opening with Ribbon Cutting will be held on Saturday, October 8 at 10 am. Invitations will be sent by email. Todd Shimkus will manage press releases and assist with invitation list. The Board is asked to submit names for the invitation list. Kay Tomasi will help with addresses for supervisors/legislators in the 3 counties.
- Tom R will continue to pursue a HHRP line item in the NYS budget. He will contact Assemblyman Steve Englebright and Jim Thompson.

**New Business:**

- It was reported that the culvert under NYS Route 29 near the GVC has collapsed. NYS Route 29 is the only east-west route in Saratoga County. DOT and Carrie Woerner are trying to address the situation. A stabilized crossing for the Empire State Trail is needed at this location.
- There is a need to coordinate solutions regarding the dredging of the Old Champlain Canal. Work on a grant application for small villages is underway. This is a good example of how the Partnership can have “a larger voice” when trying to find solutions for area issues.
- David Pitlyk reported about the activities at the Bennington Battlefield NYS Historic Site.
- **The next Board meeting will be held at GVC on Monday, September 26 at 9 am. A Membership meeting will follow at 10 am. Jim Brangan of the Lake Champlain Basin Program will give a presentation about the invasive species issue.**

**Ed Knowski made the motion, seconded by Julie Stokes, to adjourn the meeting, to adjourn the meeting.**

Respectfully submitted,

Katharine Tomasi, Secretary