



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 28, 2023

Gateway Visitors Center

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

Julie Stokes, Governor Appointee

Joe Durkin, Affiliate Member, Rensselaer Land Trust

Cindy Wian, Hudson Crossing Park

Ed Kinowski, Town of Stillwater (via proxy)

Also attending:

Kate Morse, Hudson Crossing Park

Drew Alberti, Flatley Read

Orion Parrillo, Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce

Chairman Tom Richardson called the meeting to order at 9:15 am. A quorum was present.

Secretary's Report:

- No minutes of the September meeting were presented. They will be approved at the following meeting.

Financial Report: Drew Alberti

- Drew reported that there is approximately \$5,000 in the checking account and \$4,954 in the special projects account.
- The ESD grant sponsored by Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner is a reimbursable grant with a contract period that extends from April 2023-April 2024. Draws can be done quarterly and can take up to 90 days for reimbursement. The Partnership has only spent \$13,000 in that period and can only reasonably accumulate approximately \$22,000 in expenses before running out of cash.
 - Tom Richardson is going to speak with Supervisors about discretionary funding.

- Ed and Drew are going to look into bridge financing options.

Chairman's Report: Tom Richardson

- Tom spoke to Senator Jim Tedisco's office regarding the \$400,000 Marchione grant and they indicated that they were working on putting together a written request to the Senate Finance Committee. Tom is separately going to attempt to make an appointment to meet with the head of the Senate Finance Committee.
- Drew installed one of the two GVC interactive displays and has been communicating with Lakes to Locks Passage regarding the completion of the second exhibit.
- Tom welcomed Orion from the Rensselaer County Regional Chamber.

Projects Report: Tom Richardson

Tom reported that the plaque has been installed.

Management of GVC: Kate Morse

- Joe Durkin edited the Operations Agreement between HHHRP and Hudson Crossing Park, but Kate and Drew did not have opportunity to review it prior to the meeting. Kate, Joe, and Drew will review and discuss.
- Kate reported that 40-50 visitors from the Canal Society of NYS came to the GVC on a tour. They were very happy with their visit.
- Kate reported that staffing for the visitors center has now expired and GVC will now be operating on a more limited basis with volunteers.

Old Business:

- Cindy Wian presented the nominations for officers:
 - Chairperson – Tom Richardson
 - Vice Chair – Pam Fuller
 - Treasurer – Ed Kinowski
 - Secretary – Joe Durkin

Cindy Wian made the motion, seconded by Julie Stokes, to approve the nominees. Motion carried.

New Business:

- Julie reported that things are advancing with the canal dredging project and suggested organizing a meeting, sponsored by the Partnership, to bring a selected group of community leaders and stakeholders to make sure that everyone is informed about what is happening.
- Tom is to reach out to Assemblywoman Carrie Woener about being the presenter at the Annual Meeting

The next Board Meeting is the Annual meeting and it will be held at GVC on Monday, November 27.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Drew Alberti, on behalf of the Secretary