



**2nd DRAFT - BOARD MEETING MINUTES – DRAFT 2nd**

May 19, 2025

Gateway Visitor 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  
Ed Kinowski, Town of Stillwater  
Joe Durkin, Rensselaer Land Trust/Plateau Alliance  
Ian Murray, Town of Saratoga  
Kay Tomasi, Senate Appointee  
Julie Stokes, Governor Appointee

**Also attending:**

Andrew Alberti, Flatley Read, Partnership administration  
Kate Morse, Hudson Crossing Park, GVC staffing administration

A quorum was present.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes prepared by Joe Durkin, Meeting May 19, 2025 Motion to approve by Ed Kinowski second by Kay Tomasi, approved unanimous.

**Financial Report – Ed Kinowski, Drew Alberti**

Ed K reviewed the Cash Flow part of the Finance Summary specifically regarding the intent to make payments to Flatley Read (\$11,000) and HCP (\$14,000) in addition to payments already made which would enable sending in the 2025ESD First Reimbursement Request at about \$50,000. This is part of the effort to bring payments to FR and HCP closer to current. Ed K asked for approval by the Board, Ian M seconded and the Board approved.

Ed K also reviewed an e-mail from Drew A and Assembly Member Carrie Woerner about matching the timing of the expenses to be reimbursed with the Budget authorization for ESD grants. This has been a lingering problem because we started with reimbursement of expenses going back into 2023 and the timing of request submission and approval can be long (90 to 120 days). Drew informed Assembly Member Woerner that HHHRP had finished obtaining reimbursement for the 2024 ESD Grant. Drew also noted that ESD was giving HHHRP two years to seek reimbursement under the grant contracts. Julie S made motion to accept the Finance Report/Summary, second by Ian and approved unanimous.

#### **Chairman's Report – Tom Richardson**

The Chairman's report started with several reports by Julie S. First was about a Trail Count Report and HHHRP possibly setting up a trail count reporter and coordinate with Parks & Trails NY. Prior to the Board meeting Julie S had distributed an e-mail from Parks & Trails NY about the trail use counter on the Champlain Canal Trail just north of the GVC. The e-mail contained some of the data and had links to the full data report. Julie noted that the current P&T NY counter was being removed and maybe HHHRP could purchase a trail counter for \$3,000. Stillwater and Saratoga Town may be able to help fund; Ed K and Ian M need to confirm. Second was a letter of support for the Town of Victory from HHHRP for lowering the speed limit on portion of Route 4; this was considered OK by the Board. Third was another request for a HHHRP letter of support for State funds for the demolition of the old mill building in Victory, which although an historic building is in dangerous condition; considered OK by the Board. (Update note. A few days after the Board meeting there was a destructive fire in the old mill building leading to its demolition.)

- Continued ESD Grant funding –Tom R confirmed with Carrie Woerner that the State Budget had \$150,000 for the ESD 2025 grant.

#### **- GVC as 250 Celebration headquarters/office –**

Ian M reported that Saratoga Associates is preparing the plans for the County and there are some sketch drawings for County's plan for the buildout of the downstairs. Saratoga Associates is preparing options for the stair case connecting the two floors. In response to a comment by Joe D about the interplay of HHHRP and the County having functions and events with the stair design, Ian said those are considerations being reviewed in the plan preparation.

In addition Ian M reported participating in discussions about ideas for making changes to the outside. Tom R has also been involved. Both Ian M and Tom R are involved in the planning discussions by virtue of both HHHRP and their respective roles with Town of Saratoga and City of Mechanicville. Once the preliminary ideas are jointly agreed to then the construction drawing will be next. One major change could be modifications of the ground slope elevations. Outside lighting is being included in the designs. Ian noted that Saratoga Town has the economic development funding grant (\$10,000) which could be used for the outdoor lighting, but needs the plans. Kate M commented that now with the GVC being used more as an event location access from the parking area needs to take that into account. Ian M. noted that additional parking is being examined, but it will have to avoid the flood prone area. It was noted that the Village Center parking lot is a public parking lot and could function as the overflow parking lot for the GVC.

The question about the County's schedule/timeline came up again. Currently it looks like exterior/outside work may get started in the Fall and interior work start in Summer. Ian M indicated that

he would be willing and able to keep an eye of the County's buildout and exterior work on behalf of HHHRP.

#### **Operations of GVC – Kate Morse**

- Events/Programs. Kate M went through parts of her May Report included in the meeting agenda.

- Maintenance. The mice/pest control issue was raised again. Drew has some quotes. It was agreed we should hire the company 101 Pest Control to come in.

Drew A reported that based on prior Board meeting and follow up discussions he had received and reviewed bids for cleaning and garbage pickup contracts. It was agreed OK to contract with Cassale for garbage pickup and Adirondack Peak Services for cleaning services.

- Public/Private Use of GVC. Kate pointed out an item in her report she thought should have Board input/approval. After the May 13 meeting for the Friends of the Champlain Canalway Trail, a person from the Feeder Canal Alliance inquired about the possibility of that organization holding a board retreat at the GVC on June 27. There was consensus that this use of the GVC by this organization was consistent with our prior Board discussion about use by organizations with a purpose within the HHHRP mission. It was also agreed that HHHRP would request a donation from this organization, not charge a use fee.

#### **Regional Projects**

- Hoosic River Project. Joe D referred to the related report in the Meeting Agenda, highlighting that we are ready to specifically schedule the meeting among municipalities and elected representatives to discuss the idea of improving/increasing access to the Hoosic River. It was agreed to schedule the meeting on June 25 in the morning. There was then a brief overview about how the meeting would be coordinated with HooRWA .

- Champlain Canalway Trail – Wayfinding project No updates

**Next Board Meeting will be June 30.**

**Being no further discussions, Tom Richardson closed the meeting.**

Minutes Prepared By Joseph Durkin