ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, November 17, 2025
Saratoga Town Hall
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
Kay Tomasi, Senate Appointee
Joe Durkin, Affiliate Member, Rensselaer Land Trust
Ed Kinowski, Town of Stillwater
Cindy Wian, Hudson Crossing Park
Ian Murray, Town of Saratoga Supervisor
Julie Stokes, Governors Appointee

Staff attending:
Kate Morse, Hudson Crossing Park
Andrew Alberti, Flatley Read

Persons giving presentations:
Steve Bolger, Saratoga County
Laurren Roberts, Saratoga County

Also attending:
David Woodin, Town of Waterford
Keith Swenson, Grassland Bird Trust
Matt Wilson, Town of Halfmoon
Sasna del Peral, NYS Canal Corps
Georgia Wohnsen, NYS Canal Corps
Lauren Stevens, Hoosic River Watershed Association
Ariana Collins, Hoosic River Watershed Association

Mary Ward, Champlain Canalway Trail Working Group
Tim Holmes, Friends of Saratoga Battlefield
Teri Ptceck, Agriculture Stewardship Association

The meeting began with an introduction of the HHHRP Board members.

Saratoga County Presentation 250th Celebration Center

Steve Bulger and Lauren Roberts gave a presentation about using the HHHRP Gateway Visitor Center as the local hub for the upcoming celebration of the Revolutionary War and Declaration of Indepenence. They first gave some background about the 250 Celebration Commission as the organization doing much of the regional planning about the American Turning Point centered around the Battle of Saratoga Campaign. Although the main focus now is the 250 Celebration of the Revolutionary War/American Turning Point, they are also taking a more long term view of tourism based on the heritage of the area. The GVC will continue to serve as a hub for tourism visitors.

After the introductory background, Mr Bulger and Ms Roberts gave an on screen presentation showing how the lower floor of the GVC will be built out for the County's occupancy with images of what it will look like. It was noted that the work was being funded by grants. They also illustrated the interplay of history and wayfinding/displays/tours. Current examples of how the GVC will be part of all of this was the Saratoga Battlefield Siege Weekend held in October at Ft Hardy Park with an estimated 1,700 visitors and the upcoming Knox Artillery Trail event on December 13.

Review of Annual Report

Drew Alberti introduced the Annual Report that was distributed to the members prior to the meeting and highlighted several items. Because the Annual Report was distributed to the members as part of the e-mail invite and because of the thorough presentation by Saratoga County about the GVC being an important part of the regional 250 Celebration, Drew focused his presentation on the renewed effort by HHHRP of working on new regional projects. This included the Champlain Canalway Trail to be a contiguous trail from Waterford to Whitehall and studying to increase access to the Hoosic River. HHHRP is assisting the Friends of the Champlain Canalway Trail and is collaborating with the Hoosic River Watershed Association in these two initiatives. It was noted that the Hoosic River initiative was particularly important because the HHHRP region was expanded in 2013 to include the area along the Hoosic River. Although not the main point of his presentation, Drew called attention to the growing number of people using the GVC. Drew pointed out in the Annual Report the number of visitors who have signed the register and that the actual number is probably twice that number based on the Parks & Trails NY number count for use of the adjacent section of the Champlain Canal Trail.

Election of Directors (By Vote of members and Board)
Joseph Durkin, current member of the Board of Directors, term up for renewal as member of the Board of Directors. Julie Stokes made the motion**,** seconded by Ian Murray**,** to approve the election of Joseph Durkin to the Board of Directors. Motion approved.

Following the vote, Tom Richardson said that we need more Directors on the Board and invited anyone who is interested or knows of someone who could join the Board to contact Drew Alberti. Board

membership is a combination of representatives of municipalities within the HHHRP region and several types of appointees.

Election of Officers (By Vote of the Board)
Tom Richardson, Board Chair
Ian Murray, Board Vice Chair
Joe Durkin, Secretary
Ed Kinowski, Treasurer
Motion to elect the current officers for a new term; Julie Stokes made the motion, second by Kay Tomasi, approved by Board

Request for Ideas

Tom Richardson asked for ideas for projects. In response Sasna del Pero of the Canal Corp talked about how the Canal Corp had done a study for the Erie Canal trail improvements and said they are working on a study for the Champlain Canal Trail and looking to increase public outreach for this study.

Tom Richardson concluded the meeting by noting the HHHRP Board meets monthly, the meetings are open to public and the next Board meeting would be the last Monday of January.

Minutes prepared by

Joe Durkin, Secretary