



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 26, 2022

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
Kay Tomasi, Senate Appointee
Ed Kinowski, Town of Stillwater Supervisor
Pam Fuller, Village of Greenwich Mayor
Joe Durkin, Affiliate Member, Rensselaer Land Trust
Julie Stokes, Governor appointee
Cindy Wian, Hudson Crossing Park

Also attending:

Dave Roberts, GVC Construction Supervision Services Contractor
David Pitlyk, NYS Parks
Kate Morse, Hudson Crossing Park
David Wooden, Town of Waterford
Andrew Alberti, Flatley Read
Jeremy McFarren, Flatley Read
Tim Holmes, Friends of Saratoga Battlefield
Cory Heyman, Village of Schuylerville

Chairman Tom Richardson called the meeting to order at 9:06 am. A quorum was present. Attendees introduced themselves. Tom Richardson reported that he met with former State Senator Roy McDonald and discussed the Partnership. Roy will be attending the October 8th Ribbon Cutting event. Tom also mentioned that we may be able to have some outstanding programs for the public at GVC.

Secretary's Report: Kay Tomasi

- **Julie Stokes made the motion, seconded by Ed Knowski, to accept the Secretary's Report as presented. Motion carried.**

Financial Report: Ed Knowski

- The DASNY Grants Account shows a balance of \$16,285.61.
- The Operating account balance is \$14,045.13.
- Partnership funds remaining in the Town of Saratoga account need to be entered into our bookkeeping.
- Ed made a presentation to the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors about the Partnership.

Chairman's Report: Tom Richardson

- There has been a meeting about managing the culvert issue under Route 29 near the intersection of Routes 29 and 4. DOT suggested a quick fix for the problem. The Village would like to have a box culvert as included in the Schuylerville Village Plan. Reds Street is actually owned by the Partnership. Discussion is underway and ARPA money will be sought.
- Tom reported that Congressman Paul Tonko, Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner, Director of Canal Corp. Brian Stratton, former State Senator Roy Mc Donald, and Assemblyman Steve Englebright are planning to attend the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on October 8th. He asks all to circulate as much information about the event as possible and to attend the event. Todd Simkus of the Saratoga County Chamber will manage the invitations and contact local newspapers.
- Tom reported that Jim Thompson continues to work at finalizing the \$400,000 Kathy Marchione grant. He is also pursuing a HHRP line in the NYS budget. The request has been recognized by state officials but there has been no action.

Management of GVC: Kate Morris

- The spending of \$15,000 designated for staffing and administration of GVC must be finalized by the end of the year. Approximately \$7,000 will cover the remainder of administrative/staffing costs.

Projects Report: Dave Roberts

- Completion of construction, landscaping, disabilities access, and the interior of the main floor has been accomplished.
- The public has made requests for usage of the GVC.
- Pam Fuller's committee has submitted a report and is working to develop a policy for GVC usage.
- Offers of donations of area artifacts have been made. Since GVC is a visitors center and not a museum, there are limitations re: accessing artifacts.

- 23 blue chairs and 24 red chairs have been donated to GVC by the Saratoga Battlefield Historic Site. There will be a policy for managing set-up and take-down of chairs.
- Internet access, security, garbage disposal, and cleaning need to be addressed.
- A Certificate of Occupancy will soon be issued by the Village of Schuylerville.
- Approximately \$13,000 is still available from the DASNY grant.
- Dave Roberts and Flatley Read have not submitted recent bills. Outstanding bills need to be paid at this time. Ed Knowski should be reimbursed for any bills he paid.
- Dave and Joe Finan will present a plan at the next meeting that will cover the next 2 months and list priorities.

GVC Programs: Pam Fuller

- Pam, Teri Ptack, Kate Morris, and Kay Tomasi have met. Recommendations included a Planning Program Coordinator for 20 hours/week @ \$20/hour. Staffing would be paid \$15/hr. Total cost per year would be approximately \$30,000/year.
- Recommendation was made to have a HHHRP policy dealing with donated artifacts and appropriate programs.
- Julie Stokes offered to create a draft policy handout regarding artifacts.
- There needs to be an outreach to local schools.
- Suggestion was made to have artisan workshops. Fees could be a part of fundraising. This could be a possible use of the downstairs. There are grants available for such programs.
- Policies need to include no food/drink, not a community center, nonpolitical events, and building capacity.
- General consensus indicated that the GVC is not ready for programs at this time.

New Business:

- **The next Board meeting will be held at the GVC on Monday, October 31st, at 9am.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Katharine Tomasi, Secretary

A Membership meeting followed with a presentation about invasive species in the Lake Champlain area by Jim Brangan, Meg Modley, and Erik Reardon (DEC) of the Lake Champlain Basin Program.