



Draft- BOARD MEETING MINUTES-Draft

December 2, 2024

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

Joe Durkin, Rensselaer Land Trust/Plateau Alliance

Ed Kinowski, Town of Stillwater

Ian Murray, Town of Saratoga

Julie Stokes, Governor Appointee (attended via Zoom on lap top computer))

Cindy Wian

Also attending:

Andrew Alberti, Flatley Read, Partnership administration

Kate Morse, Hudson Crossing Park, GVC staffing administration

Pamela Landin, Washington County Planning

Chairman Tom Richardson called the Board meeting to order. A quorum present.

Secretary's Report: Minutes prepared by Joe Durkin

- The minutes of both the September and October Board Meetings were approved. Motion by Ed Kinowski, second by Ian Murray, all in favor.

Financial Report – Drew Alberti

No update to Finance Summary included in the Meeting Agenda. The primary focus of Drew A's report at the meeting was on the ESD reimbursement process, timing and effect on the Partnership cash flow management. A major issue being the 120 days for ESD approval of each request for reimbursement. A significant item is that although we have the current ESD grant, will we have enough time to get another reimbursement request in before the end of the contract time? We are relying on receiving the reimbursement money in order to make major expense item payments. Will those payments then qualify for reimbursement under the current ESD grant. Possible remedy would be for ESD to extend the contract time to cover the waiting time for the next approval. Drew used this timing issue to ask whether we could fix this problem by finding additional sources of money to pay for expenses. (Worth noting as background. Tom R obtained \$50,000 of contributions from our supporting municipalities as a source for essentially a revolving cash flow fund. The question now being, is this a sufficient revolving cash flow fund?) A discussion ensued about whether and what funding sources could be obtained. One idea was to work with the Village of Schuylerville so that funding for staff time could help pay HCP and then obtain reimbursement. Ed K suggested another idea was to look to Saratoga County for possible economic development grant money. It was noted by Ian M that this may not be possible since these types of grants are to be used for projects that would be subject to approval with their own timing factors. Another structural item of the ESD grant program is that there can only be one grant request pending at a time. Thus during the 120 day approval time the partnership cannot put in reimbursement request for subsequent expenses paid. In large measure the primary problem is timing of cash flow. It was noted this could be part of the discussion with Carrie Woerner (below).

Chairman's Report – Tom Richardson

- GVC as 250 Celebration headquarters/office – No updates
- Tom R noted that the discussion during the Finance Report covered most of the ESD process issues. Tom R reported he would be discussing the ESD grant with Carrie Woerner (Dec 4) and asked Drew A to provide a brief memo outlining the cash flow issue.
- Tom R asked the Board to vote on Ian Murray becoming the Vice Chair. **Motion 2024-13 made by Ed Kinowski, seconded by Julie Stokes for Ian Murray to be the Vice Chair of the Partnership Board, motion was approved unanimously.**
- Tom R asked the Board to vote to approve the Annual Report prepared and distributed by Drew A. **Motion 2024-14 made by Ed Kinowski, seconded by Julie Stokes to approve the Annual Report, motion was approved unanimously.**

Julie S mentioned that she knew of someone who might be interested in joining the Board (John King). Cindy Wian noted that she also knows of Mr. King. Julie S would follow up and maybe bring this back to the Board at the next meeting.

Operations of GVC – Kate Morse

- Management - Staffing, days open, events at GVC during November were summarized in the Report distributed by Kate. Kate gave updates to the report including a history meeting. The question of winter hours was revisited, one point being that with very few visitors maybe being open was a waste of time and money. Julie S brought up the idea of outdoor lighting based on her experience at a well attended GVC community event and maybe the Partnership should think about charging a user fee. Ian M

responded about the outdoor lighting noting that as previously reported he was working with the Town of Saratoga on this and would follow up.

-Maintenance building and grounds

Ian M reported that the organization, Sons of the American Revolution, were interested in donating a bench to be installed along the front entrance walk and handed out a picture of what it would look like. There was consensus that this was worth looking into so Ian M will follow up. Ian also reported that he had the Tom Woods Memorial Plaque (which was paid for by Town of Saratoga) and was ready to install. Ian M would install the Memorial Plaque and a dedication ceremony would be scheduled after that.

Regional Projects

- Ideas for regional projects would be a focus item at the Annual Meeting following immediately after the Board Meeting.

Being no further discussions, Tom Richardson closed the meeting.

Minutes Prepared By Joseph Durkin