

Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc.

April 23, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Voting members:

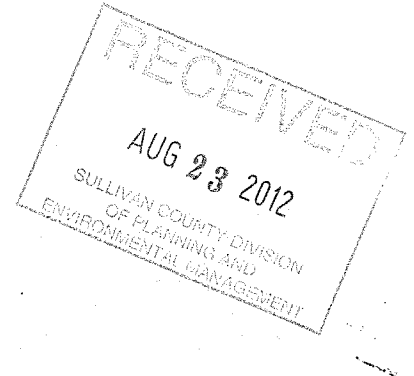
Nadia Rajs, Town of Lumberland representative, Chairperson
Ed Boyer, Town of Tusten rep., Vice-chairperson
Larry H. Richardson, Town of Cochecton rep., Secretary-Treasurer
Luiz Aragon, Sullivan County rep.
Ginny Dudko, Town of Deerpark rep.
Rosie DeCristofaro, Town of Delaware rep.
Carol Roig, Town of Highland alternate
Rose Fredricks, Town of Tusten alt.

Non-voting members:

Loren Goering, National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River
Glenn Pontier, Sullivan Renaissance (at 7:08)
Laurie Ramie, Upper Delaware Council

Guests:

none



Call to Order: Chairperson Nadia Rajs called the meeting held at the Upper Delaware Council office in Narrowsburg to order at 7:03 p.m.

Election of Officers: As April constitutes the annual meeting of Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc., an election of officers took place. On a motion by Dudko, seconded by Aragon, the slate nominated at the March meeting was approved: Chairperson Nadia Rajs, Town of Lumberland; Vice-Chair Ed Boyer, Town of Tusten; and Secretary-Treasurer Larry H. Richardson, Town of Cochecton, with all in favor.

Acceptance of Minutes: On a motion by Richardson, seconded by DeCristofaro, minutes from the Mar. 26, 2012 meeting were approved, with all in favor.

Correspondence Report:

Ramie noted that asterisks on this written report indicate handouts or action items.

Outgoing Correspondence:

1. To Interstate Bridge Commission, PennDOT District Executive George J. Roberts and NY DOT Regional Director Jack Williams, from Glenn Pontier, 3/27, re: Resignation from the Pond Eddy Bridge Design Advisory Committee as the designated member of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Advisory Board.
2. To Paul DeAngelo, project coordinator, Skelly and Loy, from Laurie Ramie, 3/27, re: March 26, 2012 appointment by Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. of Town of Highland Alternate Carol Roig as its delegate to the Pond Eddy Bridge Design Advisory Committee.
3. To Hon. John L. Mica, chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives' Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, re: Request for Modification of SAFETEA-LU Project (UDSB Visitor Center funding).
4. To David Fanslau, county manager, Sullivan County, 4/2: Inquiry on status of 2012 allocation to the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway.
5. To UDSB Committee, 4/2: Summary of Action Items from UDSB March 27, 2012 meeting.
6. To Nadia Rajs, chairperson, Upper Delaware Council, 4/5: Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. donation of \$3,000 to UDC for support to pursue its mission.
7. To UDSB Distribution List, 4/20: UDSB April 23, 2012 meeting agenda.
8. To UDSB Distribution List, 4/20: March 26, 2012 UDSB, Inc. meeting minutes.

Incoming Correspondence:

1. From Kris Gilbert, landscape architect, NYS DOT Region 9, 3/29: Request for copy of UDSB letter sent to the New York State Historic Preservation Office on the Pond Eddy Bridge.
2. From ESRI, 3/29: "ARC News", Spring 2012 issue.

3. From Luiz Aragon, 3/29: Letter signed by Sullivan County Manager David Fanslau supporting UDSB letter to the Hon. John Mica, chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, re: Request for Modification of SAFETEA-LU Project.
4. From Catskill Hudson Bank, 4/3: Statements as of 3/30/12 for NYS Grant TM08104, NYS Grant M060091, and NYS Grant TM07083 UDSB accounts.
5. From Delaware County Tourism, 4/5: "Delaware County Tourism Newsletter", April 2012.
6. From Jeff Bank, 4/9: Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. Account Statement as of 3/30/12.
7. * From George J. Roberts, PennDOT, 4/11: Response to 3/27 Pontier letter on resignation from Pond Eddy Bridge Design Advisory Committee.
8. From Belleayre Conservatory, Highmount, NY, 4/16: Contributions sought for the 21st season of Belleayre Music Festival, July 7-Sept. 1.
9. From Mary Beth Silano, executive director, Delaware County Chamber of Commerce, 4/16: Thank you for continuing your membership investment with the chamber.
10. From Frontier, 4/16: Setting up a new mailbox with the Frontier Message Center.
11. * From Sullivan County Visitors Association, 4/16: Invitation for the Annual Literature Exchange to be held on 5/10 at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, 4-7 p.m. RSVP by 4/30.
12. From Carol Roig, 4/16: Guidance sought on changing the scope of work for Town of Highland's \$2,000 UDSB grant under NYS Grant M060091.
13. * From Frontier, 4/19: Invoice for monthly telephone services, \$70.93 due by 5/10.
14. * From Amanda Scully and Carol Roig, 4/18: Request by Highland Renaissance and Town of Highland to change the parameters of its UDSB beautification grant.
15. * From Glenn Pontier, 4/23: Organizing meeting to "Save the Pond Eddy Bridge" on 4/28, 2 p.m., Lumberland Town Hall.

Ramie reported that she had sent a letter on Apr. 2 to Sullivan County Manager David Fanslau inquiring about the status of the county's \$1,700 donation to UDSB, Inc. for 2012. She also updated the voting membership list with some new information and included it as a handout.

Treasurer's Report:

Richardson made a correction to last month's report. He had written the right amount for Check #1333 but had the wrong notation of the recipient, which was \$100 in dues to the Sullivan County Visitors Association rather than to accountant Terry Whitt. Richardson highlighted his written report of transactions made from Feb. 29 to Mar.31. The Jeff Bank account balance is \$6,972.38, the NYS Grant TM07083 account balance is \$6,250, the NYS Grant TM08104 balance is \$6,250, the NYS Grant M060091 account balance is \$638.93, and there is \$22.48 in the PayPal account. He reviewed two new bills received for payment, which include \$100 due to W Design for April website maintenance and \$70.39 due to Frontier for phone service. On a **motion** by Aragon, seconded by Boyer, approval was given to pay the bills, with all in favor. On a **motion** by Dudko, seconded by Aragon, the Treasurer's Report was accepted, with all in favor. Richardson concluded that he had presented the UDSB's donation check for \$3,000 to the Upper Delaware Council at the UDC's April 5 meeting.

New Business:

- a) **Town of Highland Grant M060091 Project** – Ramie noted that there are six beautification projects under NYS Grant M060091 that must be completed by August 15. She sent a memo on March 16 to the sponsoring municipalities to request documentation by August 1 for her processing of reimbursement requests to the state. Roig had contacted Ramie on behalf of the Town of Highland, requesting to change the parameters of its \$2,000 grant. A letter outlining the project was offered as a handout. While the original plan was for a student intern to staff the Information Station in Barryville and help Highland Renaissance and the town with landscaping maintenance, that building has now been rented out for an antiques business which also fulfills tourism requests. Highland's new proposed project is to hire an adult garden helper for landscaping assistance in Barryville and Minisink Ford, and to use a portion of the money to purchase plants, including the creation of a wildflower meadow at the Eagle Observation area. Ramie said that the new project does not deviate widely from the original scope of work and recommended that it be approved. On a **motion** by Richardson, seconded by Dudko, the board authorized the Town of Highland's change to its NYS Grant M060091 project, with all in favor.
- b) **Sullivan County Visitors Association Literature Exchange** – Ramie referenced a flyer from the Sullivan County Visitors Association inviting UDSB to participate in its Annual Literature Exchange to take place on Thursday, May 10, from 4-7 p.m. at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts. This is a tailgate exchange of brochures which also includes a barbecue and live broadcast from WVOS/WSUL. Reservations are

requested by Apr. 30. Aragon said he would be present and volunteered to take a box of UDSB brochures for distribution.

- c) **UDSB Route Marker Signs** – Ramie reported that Nancy Conod from the Minisink Valley Historical Society in Port Jervis had been cleaning out Peter Osborne’s old office and came upon a box marked UDSB “seconds”. It contained 14 of the aluminum UDSB logo route marker signs that the NYS DOT ruled were not useable on the highway because the holes were drilled in the wrong place. She asked if UDSB would like them, and Ramie arranged with Dan Van Kleeck to pick them up and bring the heavy box to the UDC office. Aragon suggested dividing them up among the member municipalities to use as directional signs to lead the way to the byway. Ramie added that some towns have incorporated this type of signage into their roadside welcome displays as well. Ramie suggested that each representative take a sign with them to pass along to their local government.
- d) **Revision of UDSB Monthly Meeting Schedule** – This topic had been carried over for discussion from the last meeting. Rajszyk asked if we have that much on the agenda that we couldn’t meet every other month. Pontier said he’d rather have shorter monthly meetings that are more focused for greater effectiveness. The UDSB should be proactive on certain items like the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP) and the Port Jervis Whitewater Park. Whether UDSB meets on specific topics or not, we should look to get involved in the next level of planning. Richardson said that we need to look at the reality that we could lose Ramie’s services given her additional responsibilities with the UDC. Aragon said he could speak to the status of the LWRP project. The advisory committee chose Synthesis/LaBerge Group to conduct a regional charette and finalize the LWRP. The county is in the process of executing a contract with the consultants. Pontier said that opening up views to the river and addressing the litter problem along Route 97 are additional topics that this board rarely has time to get into at its regular meetings. Aragon said that would be a different kind of meeting with its own agenda. The key at the regular meetings is to avoid getting too repetitive in discussing the same topics. Rajszyk said that she hopes we are able to schedule a presentation on the Port Jervis Whitewater Park at the next meeting, which will likely be in June because of the Memorial Day conflict on May 28, and we could focus on the LWRP at the following meeting. Pontier said, now we’re reacting to an agenda rather than creating it. On the topic of highway maintenance, Rajszyk updated the committee that the NYS DOT has been using a mower that reaches over guardrails along Route 97 in her town to address the brush. She mentioned that the National Park Service is discontinuing its trash removal contracts with the river valley towns due to administrative difficulties. This means that towns will have to address trash on their own. Richardson noted that it is Litterpluck time in Sullivan County. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation takes littering very seriously. If you find any identification in discarded trash along the highway and call the New Paltz office, they will hold that individual responsible for that garbage and levy a fine. Lt. Deming Lindsley in the DEC contact locally.
- e) **UDSB Newspaper Articles** – Two articles published March 22 in the Pike County Dispatch, “Resumption of Hawk’s Nest Work Catches Tourism Agencies by Surprise” and April 5 in The River Reporter, “QR Codes: Promoting the Scenic Byway and More”, were handed out. Ramie had been interviewed for both articles.
- f) **Other** – none

Old Business:

- a) **Pond Eddy Bridge Update** – Three handouts were provided: April 11 letter to Glenn Pontier from George J. Roberts, District Executive with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation; minutes from the March 29 Pond Eddy Bridge Design Advisory Committee (DAC) meeting #3; and an e-mail message from Pontier promoting an organizing meeting to “Save the Pond Eddy Bridge” on April 28 at the Lumberland Town Hall in Glen Spey. Agenda items at that meeting included: 1) Discuss next step strategies; 2) Plan for “Rally on the Pond Eddy Bridge” on May 19; and 3) Promote new website and petition drive available at <http://savethebridge.tumblr.com>. Regarding the PennDOT correspondence that was in reply to Pontier’s March 27 letter announcing his resignation as the UDSB’s designated representative to the Pond Eddy Bridge DAC, Pontier said he has an annotated version of this available to anyone interested. Pontier said this is their same old story in response to the critical points he had raised and that repeating the answers doesn’t make it any more accurate. Roig reported that she attended the March 29 DAC meeting as the UDSB’s new representative. She told them that UDSB would not participate in selecting the least objectionable alternative of the design options for a new bridge. The minutes reflect that UDSB chose not to vote, joining the Friends of the Pond Eddy Bridge and the Town of Lumberland in that decision. They started the meeting by talking about their limited allocation for a new bridge, to which NPS Superintendent

Sean McGuinness offered a spirited defense about that being the wrong approach. A follow-up meeting will be convened when they're ready to announce the final design. Rajsz said that the Town of Lumberland fears that they'll end up with the least expensive concrete bridge there. Pontier said he's not convinced that this still can't be fought. They got all the key players to sign off on demolishing this bridge in theory but they don't have the permission yet to build a new bridge. That will require approvals for the staging, causeway and other factors that have yet to come. It's not a done deal until they start the construction. Pontier said we must remain stalwart and firm, and buttress our friends who have the regulatory authority. Put on the pressure. Roig added that while access for emergency vehicles has been cited as a need for a new bridge, the Shohola Fire Department has an emergency plan in place to drive their vehicles down the railroad tracks if necessary. They have practiced it. Pontier said that the "save the bridge" website referenced earlier had gone live at 1 p.m. that day. It has many relevant documents posted as well as a petition for which he hopes to obtain 5,000 signatures. Catskill Mountainkeeper has volunteered to serve as fiduciary. Pontier would like to raise funds to hire an engineer to do an independent study of the existing bridge and there may be a need to obtain legal counsel. The National Resources Defense Council is looking into this and Pontier hopes to bring in other groups to raise awareness. This bridge has historic and tourism value to our river valley. He reiterated that UDSB has to at least try to save a bridge listed on the Federal Register of Historic Places in a National Wild & Scenic Rivers area.

- b) **UDSB Visitor Center Update** – Ramie noted that there had been no reply to date to the April 2 letter that was sent to U.S. House of Representatives' Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chair John L. Mica requesting a modification of the 2005 SAFETEA-LU allocation for the design and construction of a UDSB Visitor Center. Rajsz asked Ramie to forward the letter to an aide to Congresswoman Nan Hayworth who had expressed interest in directly receiving a copy.
- c) **Status of Current Grants** – Active grants under administration include: 1) FY07 FHWA grant (\$12,400 award plus \$3,540 local match for the Invasive Plant Species Educational Campaign and Interpretive Signage Project) – UDSB awaits payment of \$4,557.83 from its second reimbursement request submitted Aug. 12, 2011. The contract for this grant ends on June 1, 2012. Ramie will inquire again about the status and start preparing a third reimbursement request in the meantime. 2) NYS Grant M060091 (originally \$50,000, now an approximately \$18,750 balance) - Project documentation for the six beautification projects has been requested by Aug. 1 since the grant expires on Aug. 15, 2012. 3) NYS Grant TM07083 (\$25,000 for UDSB Visitor Center Feasibility Study) – Ramie applied to the state for reimbursement on March 16. The contract deadline is Aug. 15, 2012. 4) NYS Grant TM08104 (\$25,000 for a UDSB Marketing Matching Funds Campaign) – UDSB awaits receipt of documentation from Sullivan County Visitors Association in order to file for reimbursement. Contract expires Aug. 31, 2012.
- d) **Other** – none

Public Comment – None

Next Meeting Date – Monday, June 25 2012 (May 28 meeting cancelled)

Adjourn – On a motion by Aragon, seconded by Richardson, the UDSB, Inc. meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Laurie Ramie, 5/01/12