

Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc.

November 24, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Voting members:

Nadia Rajsz, Town of Lumberland rep., Chairperson
Larry H. Richardson, Town of Cochection rep., Secretary-Treasurer
Ed Boyer, Town of Tusten rep.
Rosie DeCristofaro, Town of Delaware rep.
Virginia Dudko, Town of Deepark rep.
Heather Jacksy, Sullivan County rep.
Carol Roig, Town of Highland rep.
Debbie Schofield, City of Port Jervis rep.

Non-voting members:

Laurie Ramie, Upper Delaware Council
Ingrid Peterec, NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River

Others:

Kelly Decker, Mayor of Port Jervis
Freda Eisenberg, Sullivan County DPEM Commissioner
Kristin Trovei, City of Port Jervis alternate

Call to Order: Chairperson Nadia Rajsz called the meeting held at the Upper Delaware Council office in Narrowsburg to order at 7:00 PM.

Acceptance of Minutes: On a **motion** by Richardson, seconded by DeCristofaro, minutes from the October 27, 2014 meeting were approved, with all in favor.

Correspondence Report:

The correspondence report was distributed. Action items or handouts are noted with an asterisk.

Incoming Correspondence:

1. From James Buck, NYS DOT, 11/3: notice of project to remove hazardous rock from a slope in Cochection, 11/11-11/28.
2. From USPS, 11/6: PO box rental renewal notice (\$60 annually). Payment made on 11/10.
3. From James Buck, DOT, 11/6: forwarding traveler's advisory notice for rock scaling project.
4. From JeffBank, 11/7: October bank statement, balance \$18,093.93.
5. From Heather Jacksy, 11/10: request for copy of IRS 990 or 990 EZ Form per County Manager's Office request.
6. From SCVA, 11/10: Board of Directors Election 2015 Official Ballot.
7. From SCVA, 11/12: invitation to annual meeting and holiday celebration, 12/4.
8. From SCVA, 11/14: request for information about possible major anniversary for promotion purposes.
9. From Debra Conway, 11/17: thanks for offer to write letter of support for Delaware Company.
10. From Frontier, 11/24: invoice 11/16-12/15, \$68.03.
11. *From Larry Richardson, 11/24: financial report.
12. *From W design, 11/24: November website maintenance, \$100.

Outgoing Correspondence:

1. To Anne Dubrovsky, 10/28: Forwarding ad for 2015 travel guide, with check for \$697.50.
2. To Bill Cutler, SC DPW, 10/29: Thank you for presentation at October meeting on solid waste disposal and recycling programs. Cutler acknowledged on 10/30.
3. To UDSB Committee, 11/1: Summary of action items from October 27, 2014.
4. To Joseph Kevin Moran, 11/3: Directing his inquiries regarding family genealogy to Town of Cochection Historian.
5. To UDSB Distribution Group, 11/4: Minutes of October 27 meeting.
6. To Emily at Hancock House Hotel, 11/10: forwarding her request for bird watching brochures to the Delaware Highlands Conservancy and Eagle Institute.
7. To Heather Jacksy, 11/10: forwarding accountant's explanation regarding Form 990.
8. To Richard Glisson, 11/12: Providing contact info for Nadia Rajsz regarding questions about SCVA nominating committee.
9. *To UDSB Committee, 11/20: draft response to 2014 Draft Open Space Conservation Plan.

Treasurer's Report:

Richardson reviewed transactions on his financial report. The Jeff Bank balance is \$17,236.43 as of November 24. Invoices paid since the October meeting: \$100 to W Design for website maintenance; \$697.50 to SCVA for travel guide ad; and \$60 to USPS for annual box renewal. There was no income since the October meeting. Invoices awaiting payment: W Design \$100 for November website maintenance and Frontier \$68.02.

On a **motion** by Boyer, seconded by DeCristofaro, permission was granted to pay the outstanding invoices, and the Treasurer's Report was accepted, with all in favor.

Presentation: Port Jervis Whitewater Park Project Update:

Port Jervis Mayor Kelly Decker provided a handout and presented a history of the project, which began in 2011. He explained that the project is divided into two phases; the first (lower or downriver) phase is not affected by any environmental concerns and is designed for more general use. This phase is currently being pursued; the formal request for permits will be completed within the next week or so, and they anticipate the start of construction in August 2016. The second phase is designed to be able to support Olympic trials and will include the placement of local rocks that will be secured to the bedrock. This phase is not currently being pursued due to environmental concerns that have been raised after three endangered dwarf wedgemussels were found in that area. It is expected that in the future, studies will show habitat growth that will allow the upper phase work to proceed. The cost is estimated to be approximately \$2.2 million for the whitewater features and \$4 million for the entire park. Funding is being sought from private sources, the Orange County IDA and corporate donations. To increase accessibility, the project committee hopes to include a pedestrian crossing over the railroad tracks and is working with the NYS DOT to accomplish this.

On a **motion** by Dudko, seconded by Richardson, with all in favor, the UDSB will send a letter of support for the project to be addressed to the Mayor.

New Business:

- a) **UDSB Enhancement Concept Plan Review: Chapter 2, pages 22-49.** The members reviewed each page of Chapter 2, noting many instances where information is no longer accurate or applicable, or is in need of updating.

Suggestions for updating the document included adding:

- local references such as the name of villages or hamlets in which places of interest are located, mile markers, etc.
- GPS coordinates for places of interest.
- websites that would include information about restaurants, livery services, camping and hiking opportunities, etc.
- information that was included in the Fairweather report on tourism.

There was discussion about how/whether to update the text. It was noted that the original purpose of the document was to support the designation of the Scenic Byway and as such, is an historical document. If updates are to be addressed through an addendum, the addendum should note that the changes occurred since the document was first published.

The chapter provides a six-page list of points of interest, including a list of river viewing opportunities. Rajs suggested that this list should be utilized to determine whether these viewing points are still accessible, and if overgrown vegetation has rendered them inaccessible, that they should be cleared.

Richardson asked whether the DOT has a legal obligation to address these issues peculiar to the Byway; Jacksy noted that the DOT is not bound to work with the Byway. Eisenberg stated that the UDSB should pursue opportunities to incorporate Byway objectives into DOT work plans; that this could be accomplished through personal meetings and legislative intervention; and that it should include both high-level and ground-level employees, such as meeting with engineers who prepare and execute the work plans. Ramie noted that letter writing has yielded some benefits such as receiving notification when work is scheduled.

Members are to read Chapter 3 and be prepared to discuss Chapter 4 at the next meeting in January. Chapter 4 will serve as a basis to evaluate the status of achieving the original objectives outlined in the document.

- b) **Comment Letter on NYS Draft Open Space Conservation Plan.** Ramie noted that the draft response had been previously circulated to the members for comment. The deadline for providing comments is December 17. All agreed that the letter should be sent as presented. On a motion by Trovei, seconded by Dudko, Ramie was directed to send the comment letter, with all in favor.
- c) **Other.** None.

Old Business:

- a) **Sullivan County Visitors Association 2015 Board of Directors Ballot.** Ramie stated that the presentation of Debra Conway as a candidate for the SCVA Board of Directors had not been acknowledged by the SCVA; that Conway was not included on the ballot; and that no explanation had been received as to why this had occurred. On a **motion** by Richardson, seconded by Rajs, with all in favor, Ramie was directed to send a letter to SCVA CEO Roberta Lockwood requesting an explanation as to why the UDSB's candidate was not included on the ballot for the SCVA Board.
- b) **Collect Current Municipal Sign Ordinances.** Cohecton, Deerpark and Highland reps brought their respective town's ordinances, and are being retained by the Clerk. The members are to provide copies of their municipal sign ordinances, if they have not already done so.
- c) **Inventory of Businesses that Provide Services to UDSB Visitors; Package Itineraries.** Boyer noted that several organizations provide excellent and current lists of services or activities in the area, citing Trailkeeper.org as an example. Jacksy noted that the Visitors Association is another example of such a website. It was recognized that this will be an on-going project.
- d) **UDSB Litter Strategies.** Ramie noted that a subcommittee has been formed to develop strategies for litter control along the Byway. The subcommittee is researching the Keep America Beautiful program for potential grant opportunities for UDSB to pursue, such as solar trash compactors.

On a **motion** by Richardson, seconded by DeCristofaro, Ramie was directed to send a letter to Sullivan County legislators recommending that transfer stations in Highland and Cohecton be open on Sunday evenings accommodate weekend visitors to the area, with all in favor. Eisenberg suggested that the particular legislators in whose districts these transfer stations are located should be contacted individually, as well. Rajs agreed to contact legislators Samuelson and LaBuda.

- e) **Other.** None.

Public Comment: None

Next Meeting Date: Monday, January 26, 2015. There will be no meeting in December.

Adjourn: On a **motion** by Dudko, seconded by DeCristofaro, the UDSB, Inc. meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Minutes submitted by Susan Wade, 11/26/14