

# Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc.

## March 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes

### Attendance:

#### *Voting members:*

**Glenn Pontier**, Town of Highland rep., Chairperson  
**Larry Richardson**, Town of Cochecton rep., Secretary-Treasurer  
**Ginny Dudko**, Town of Deerpark rep.  
**Teresa Spradling**, City of Port Jervis rep.  
**Josh Felderstein**, Town of Tusten rep.  
**Bianca Velez**, Town of Lumberland rep.  
**John Pizzolato**, Town of Highland alternate  
**Bill Dudko**, Town of Deerpark alt.  
**Freda Eisenberg**, Sullivan County alt. (joined at 7:13 p.m.)

#### *Non-voting members:*

**Carmela Hugel**, Sullivan Renaissance  
**Susie Kaspar**, National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River  
**Laurie Ramie**, Upper Delaware Council

#### *Guests:*

**Dan Paparella**, Upper Delaware Recreation Project

**Call to Order:** Chairperson Pontier called the meeting conducted via conference call to order at 7:00 p.m. He referenced Governor Cuomo's Executive Order preventing public gatherings due to the coronavirus pandemic, by which he said he derives that gives entities the authority to conduct business meetings by remote means even if not explicitly stated in their bylaws. On a **motion** by G. Dudko, seconded by Richardson, the voting membership affirmed that this teleconference would count as a regular meeting, with all in favor. Ramie noted that Town of Delaware Representative Rosie DeCristofaro had emailed earlier today that she was ill and could not join the call.

### Business Items:

- a.) **Approval of February 24, 2020 Meeting Minutes:** On a **motion** by G. Dudko, seconded by Richardson, the meeting minutes were approved, with all in favor.

- b.) **Correspondence Report and Membership Update:**

Pontier offered a welcome to two newly-appointed members participating in their first UDSB meetings, Josh Felderstein (Tusten) and Bianca Velez (Lumberland). He asked if they would like to introduce themselves. Felderstein said he is now a permanent Narrowsburg resident and his company is Catskill Energy Homes. He is happy to represent the Town of Tusten. Velez said she too is excited to be on the committee. She has a Pilates business south of Barryville, and has an interest in preservation, history, and fishing. Pontier said that we are a creation of the State of New York which designated a portion of Route 97 as the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway in 2002. The UDSB's mission is to welcome people here and to protect it as a scenic asset. It requires constant vigilance. Richardson expressed appreciation to Felderstein and Velez for stepping up, saying it's not easy to find volunteers. We work hard to promote the byway and have had some success. Pizzolato said he will be excited to have their input. Both bring a lot of energy and vision. Pontier explained that in addition to the voting members appointed by their municipalities, the committee also includes non-voting members of Upper Delaware groups, business organizations, and governmental agencies associated with the byway. He described their roles and said that their participation gives us more clout.

Ramie presented a four-page report of correspondence received and sent since the last meeting in a scanned packet sent to the committee in advance. She noted that the Correspondence Report also includes brochure and information requests received through the website, book sales and inventory, and the updated list of appointments and contributions from the municipal members. There remains a vacancy for the Village of Hancock representative position due to Nancy Furdock's resignation. Since last month, the Towns of Tusten and Deerpark each sent in their voluntary donations for annual operating expenses, and the City of Port Jervis supplemented their initial contribution.

**c.) Treasurer's Report, Sullivan County Contracts Received 3/13:**

Richardson reviewed transactions reflected on his written report. The current balance is \$34,187.62. All 1010 WINS commercial advertising accounts are satisfied. The second donation from Port Jervis of \$250 received on 2/28 brings the City's 2020 contribution to \$500. The balance listed includes his pending deposit of the \$1,000 contribution from Tusten. Every municipality has been accounted for now. Richardson said that he submitted a voucher on 3/21 to request the \$25,000 that the Sullivan County Legislature approved for UDSB, but received a note back stating that all county funds have been frozen at this time unless they are related to the Coronavirus. He said he had no new bills to submit for approval at this time. On a **motion** by Spradling, seconded by Eisenberg, the financial report was accepted, with all in favor.

**d.) Nominating Committee Report:**

Glenn Pontier, Ginny Dudko, and Heather Jacksy served on the Nominating Committee and developed a slate of officers that will be voted on at next month's annual meeting. Nominees are: John Pizzolato (Highland) for chairperson; Rosie DeCristofaro (Delaware) for vice-chairperson; and Larry Richardson (Cochecton) for secretary/treasurer. Pontier reported that DeCristofaro agreed to run but said she would gladly step aside if anyone else is interested, and Richardson has declared this will be his last year in the secretary-treasurer position. Pontier said that he intends to ask the Town of Highland to switch their appointment to Pizzolato as UDSB representative and Pontier as alternate representative if Pizzolato is elected as chairperson. He added that nominations will be accepted from the floor at the 4/27 election.

**e.) Grant Support Letter for The Delaware Company's Walking Trail in the Town of Highland Sent 3/6:**

Ramie explained that Highland UDSB Co-Alternate Debra Conway had requested a support letter for The Delaware Company's submission of an application to the Sullivan County Plans & Progress Grants program on 3/6 that was due by 4 p.m. that day, after being under the impression that UDSB, Inc. had already submitted one then realizing that UDSB letter was issued for a different purpose. Ramie said that while she didn't have time to send out a draft to the members for approval, she felt confident based on past discussions of this project that verbal support had been expressed. On a **motion** by G. Dudko, seconded by Pontier, the board approved the 3/6 letter of support that was included in the packets retroactively, which was approved with Eisenberg abstaining. Eisenberg, in her role as Sullivan County Planning Commissioner, reported that the UDSB letter and The Delaware Company's application was received by the 3/6 deadline. The grants review committee met last Thursday and recommended this project to the Legislature for funding. The next day brought County Manager Josh Potosek's directive about the funding freeze in place "until further notice". Eisenberg said she thinks we can all appreciate that every government is anticipating shortfalls to deal with this crisis and they need the ability to shift resources in response. At this time, she can't say if the program will be continued. Pontier said from the larger sense, the UDSB has supported individual projects that enhance highway safety, and cultural and natural resources along it. He said if anyone has any efforts like that to which this group can lend its support, that is one of our most important contributions. He said Conway's vision to connect the Barbara Yeaman Eagle Observation Blind to the National Park Service's Towpath Trail at the Roebling Bridge is a perfect example of an enhancement to the river valley. Pizzolato agreed that it will be a wonderful asset and said that Conway has even greater aspirations for this, but it's off to a great start. Pontier said based

on Conway coming before this group in the past to describe the plans, she also would like to commission a statue of a girl leading a mule along the D&H Canal Towpath, and that will be an expensive proposition. This is the first step.

**f.) Grants: Butterfly Promotion; Business & Non-profit Signs; Vista Enhancement:**

Pontier referenced a copy of the 2/29 news release in the packets that Ramie had issued to promote these three UDSB grant programs for 2020. One application was received for the Signage Along the Byway program from the Barryville United Methodist Church. This had originally been brought to the committee in January and was returned with questions. It calls for the production of two seasonal signs, a 3 x 4 ft. vinyl banner to face Rt. 97 and a 10 x 14" tin sign promoting the availability of the church's Thrift Store targeted to visitors to the Barryville Farmers' Market starting on May 22. The requested amount is \$220, which is the cost of the physical signs since design and installation services are being donated. B. Dudko asked if the signs will be taken down when the thrift store is not open? Pizzolato replied yes and said it remains to be seen whether there will be a Farmers' Market due to the current prohibition on gatherings. Richardson asked if there is documentation of how the 50% grant match will be met. Pizzolato said he is sure the designer will have at least \$220 in donated services. Pontier said if she can send an email to verify the value of her time on this project, she can use it for her tax purposes as well. Richardson said that would satisfy his concern. On a **motion** by Eisenberg, seconded by G. Dudko, the \$220 Signage Along the Byway Grant for the Barryville United Methodist Church was approved, with all in favor. Pontier asked Ramie to notify the applicant of this award. He added that we still have funding left in this grant program and encouraged the submission of applications.

**Public Comment:** None

**Discussion Items:**

- a) **Upper Delaware Watershed Litter Clean-up** – Pontier asked Upper Delaware Litter Sweep Coordinator Dan Paparella to provide an update. Paparella said nobody knows how long the restrictions on groups will last; we can only speculate. He and Pizzolato met with the Weidens at The Narrowsburg Union two Saturdays ago about the 4/25 event. They haven't given prices yet and the timing hasn't been solidly set. What had been planned was an all-day event with the Litter Letters projects on the front yard, films being shown in one of their rooms, and several organizations expressing interest in tabling for an Earth Day Sustainability Fair. The National Park Service, National Parks Conservation Association, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Delaware River Solar, the Callicoon Pantry and others were interested. They are still figuring out speakers. The Union is planning a recycled art exhibit to debut then as well. Pontier explained that the Litter Sweep has been set for April 22-25 under the auspices of the Upper Delaware Council, which a 3/17 news release from the UDC in the meeting packets explains. The UDSB wanted to piggyback on hosting an event on the final day. The odds of us being able to have an event now are slim to none. Litterplucks with small groups are still feasible. Pizzolato said that Paparella came up with the wonderful idea of bringing the Litter Letter art installation to Narrowsburg. That could be a sustainable project for the future. Carmela from Sullivan Renaissance has also expressed interest in developing anti-littering signs for communities. Maybe we could co-mingle a Signage grant request with the Litter Letters project. This could go on during the summer and be branded for the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway. He asked whether UDSB, Inc. would be amenable to applying for a Sullivan County Signage Program grant on behalf of communities along the byway that don't have an active beautification group or business organization. Felderstein suggested that if the litterpluck along highways will continue, how about hosting a contest? A t-shirt could be designed to be printed in protective orange coloring. This could be a way to raise money too. Hugel said she's been thinking about setting up a litterpluck challenge for groups within the Sullivan Renaissance territory and whoever else wanted to get involved. Richardson said he has to echo the unlikelihood of organizing any kind

of gathering a month from now. People would not feel comfortable in a crowded setting. He's sure some people will do the litter sweep in any case, but we shouldn't make firm commitments to a 4/25 event. Regarding t-shirts, the NYS Department of Transportation has specific requirements for litter cleanups that occur along state roads to wear vests and hard hats. If we gave anything away, reflective safety vests may be the best idea. We could put the UDSB map or another image on the back. He likes the idea of a promotion. B. Dudko added to make sure that any branding design doesn't cover up the reflective parts of the vest. Kaspar said she agrees that to go through so much planning for an event that realistically is unlikely to happen isn't worthwhile. The National Park Service is mandated to telework for the next two weeks at least. She recommends that we dedicate our efforts to finding another way to keep everyone involved. With all the social distancing, it could be really uplifting at a time like this to approach this with positivity. Pizzolato said we have the backdrop of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day which provides a call to action. Photographer Noah Kalina has agreed to capture images of the litter sweep with a drone, having consulted with the NPS. We could mobilize people that day and get publicity that will live on as a virtual capture. Kaspar said that might give an opportunity for people to safely observe social distancing outside the Union. Pontier said, rather than a contest, he likes the idea of a challenge. People could film themselves picking up litter and post it as a challenge to others up and down the river. He asked whether Sullivan Renaissance could host that? Hugel said that this idea has only been in her brain so far and she hasn't made any presentation on it to the organization. She would foresee it as being both a challenge and a lesson plan for kids. Pontier said it could work in the idea of t-shirts; a group could decide to identify themselves with costumes of some sort. Kaspar suggested that UDSB, Inc. could put funds toward incentive awards for groups. Pontier said we had already voted to allocate \$1,000 to this project. B. Dudko said people should want to do this just for the good of the environment. Eisenberg said anything to get people engaged and build community is welcome. She pointed out there is not only social distancing though. There are also guidelines about touching items and surfaces. We could cover that through educational outreach, advising people how long the virus lasts on objects, to wear gloves, the proper hand-washing techniques, etc. Regarding any application to the Sullivan Signage Grants Program, she noted that is on hold also. Paparella said that Keep PA Beautiful had put out an advisory recently that they feel litter cleanups remain an appropriate activity while maintaining social distance. He likes the idea of incorporating Eisenberg's suggested messaging into the campaign. Ramie said, as far as she knows, The Narrowsburg Union is moving ahead with its call to artists to contribute recycled art pieces to its curator for an exhibit that will start April 25 and run through early June. Paparella asked if we are prepared to put a kibosh on the event? On a **motion** by Pontier, seconded by G. Dudko, the committee agreed to cancel or postpone the 4/25 Upper Delaware Litter Sweep event, with all in favor. While there will be no gathering, that does not preclude the cleanup from moving forward. Pontier said he loves the idea of a challenge with a social media and educational component. UDSB, Inc. could help support that. Felderstein suggested taking an ad in the local newspapers to recognize the volunteers who participate through registering in advance with Paparella. Regarding the Signage Grant, Pizzolato said that Shannon Cilento from Sullivan County Planning had advised him that funding through that program would not be available until June if it did proceed. The Litter Letter art is an international project that could still proceed. Paparella said he was sending a link to that website to everyone for those who weren't aware of it. Pizzolato said that's one idea of how we could use funding toward getting Litter Letters funded for installation in each community. Pontier said we don't have time on this call to decide what to do in place of having cancelled the event since we keep these meetings to two hours in length. He suggested setting up a committee to outline ideas of how to proceed. They could meet virtually in the next few weeks to discuss educational, social media, and charitable components. Volunteering to serve on the Litter Sweep Committee were Paparella, Pizzolato, Hugel, Velez, and Kaspar.

- b) **Vote on 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft Letter: “Guide to Scenic Highways & Byways: The 300 Best Drives in the U.S.”** – Pontier said he had drafted a preliminary letter to advocate for National Geographic Books to include the UDSB in their next edition. He had sent out a 2<sup>nd</sup> draft which Jacksy said Eisenberg had further suggestions. Eisenberg said beyond being a friendly letter, she wanted to find out through her edits what we need to do to engage National Geographic on this. What is their process and timeline? On a **motion** by Pontier, seconded by Richardson, the committee agreed to send the edited version of the letter included in the meeting packet. Ramie will transfer it onto UDSB letterhead and it will go out under Chairperson Pontier’s signature.
- c) **Next Steps for Update of 2002 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Enhancement Concept Plan** – This item was tabled for a future meeting.
- d) **Other** – None

**Follow-up Actions and Committee Reports:**

- a) **NYS DOT Report** – Kris Gilbert had provided a written report with the status of 1) capital projects: Guiderail Work (9TDG21) in Towns of Delaware and Cochection – construction anticipated for July 2020; Rt. 97 Slope Stabilization (938949) for guiderail work in the Towns of Fremont and Delaware – construction anticipated in late 2021/2022; Tree-cutting Work in Tusten – this work is currently on hold; Tusten Long-Term Restoration Work to Remove Invasive Species (9LSS21) – work anticipated in late 2021/2022; Rt..97 Harsh Winter Paving (9HW041) – planned for John Deck Road to Lordville Road in Delaware County; Bridge #6 (Cochection) – bridge deck replacement and structural repairs, construction anticipated in 2021, off-site detour being considered; Bridge #7 (Callicoon) – deck replacement, pier rehabilitation and painting, staged construction anticipated in 2-3 years. 2) Sullivan and Delaware County Operations: All residencies are continuing to perform maintenance as necessary while operating with very reduced staff due to the coronavirus crisis. Although it is still uncertain whether it will be possible for Sullivan County Operations to coordinate mowing at a particular time in the area from rm 1139 to 1141, NYS DOT has received the UDSB’s revised request to do this work near the end of June. 3) NYS DOT Permits Office continues to coordinate details with the Upper Delaware Council regarding the litter pick-up event scheduled for April 22-25. Please note that staff reductions are making it difficult to determine safe locations along Rt. 97 at this time. 4) Ramie reported that Sullivan County Legislature Chairman Robert Doherty had sent letters to NYS Senator Metzger and Assemblywoman Gunther to support advancing work on the deteriorated Guiderails in the river valley on the basis of public safety and the incompatibility of the stretches marked with orange barrels on the scenic quality of the designated byway. Pontier said that since UDSB, Inc. has also provided written notification to NYS DOT about the failed guiderail stretches, they are now liable for the hazard that represents. If someone gets injured there, they may have grounds to recover damages because the guiderails did not provide any protection. Pontier encouraged everyone to bring news of any problem areas along NYS Rt. 97 to the committee so we can bring it to the attention of the DOT.
- b) **Callicoon Train Depot and Visitor Center Project Update** – Richardson reported that Depot Committee Chairperson Nicole Vallance had submitted a voucher requesting \$1,000 from UDSB 2019 earmarked funds for the visitor center project to use toward professional services including the attorney fees for the lease revisions with the railroad. Richardson said that 2019 money doesn’t really exist now because it wasn’t encumbered, but it was rolled over into 2020. Technically the request should be for funds from this year’s budget. Pontier explained the origin of this project and how the UDSB had turned over a \$250,000 state grant to develop a visitor center to the Callicoon Business Association after this historic train station became available as a

site to adapt for that purpose. He said since there is no staff working on this, only volunteers, it's a long, slow process to get this all moving but it's a terrific idea. Richardson said if the committee approves funding this \$1,000 request, he'll request an amended voucher and process the payment from 2020 funds. On a **motion** by Richardson, seconded by Eisenberg, the committee approved the \$1,000 payment to the Callicoon Business Association for the Train Depot Project usage, with all in favor. Velez commented that she knows Vallance well, is aware of this project, and she supports it fully. Richardson said in exchange for UDSB turning over the grant, this organization will get office space and an exhibit area within the visitor center portion of the building. He said we support it to our benefit. Pontier added that the repurposing of this historic property will also allow it to be used to disseminate information and provide public restrooms. If we're inviting people to visit the Upper Delaware, there ought to be facilities for them. Felderstein asked how he can get access to the designs for it. Ramie said she had recently forwarded artist's renderings for the site to the committee before Felderstein and Velez came on board, so she will make sure they receive those concepts.

- c) **UDSB Tourist Attractions List for NYS DOT/ESRI App** – Ramie reported that Heather Jacksy had worked with the Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association to compile a list of attractions, including descriptions, photos, and latitude/longitude coordinates, to submit to NYS Scenic Byways Coordinator Christine Colley by their requested deadline for the creation of the map story app that DOT is designing for the public. The Delaware Highlands Conservancy had independently submitted the same information for two eagle blinds after reading about the opportunity in the UDSB minutes.
- d) **Report on 3/4 NYS DOT Meeting on Cochecton-Damascus Bridge** – Ramie provided a written report in the packets on this March 4 meeting which the DOT held for local officials and emergency responders at the Cochecton Town Hall in Lake Huntington. There will be a public open house on a date to be determined. The focus of this meeting was to discuss two construction options to allow replacement of the bridge deck and other rehabilitation work. The first is to close the bridge to traffic for 2-2 ½ months with an off-site detour on NYS Rt. 97 to Callicoon to PA Rt. 191 to PA Rt. 371 of approximately 22 miles. The second option is to do staged construction allowing one travel lane open with a controlled signal for 6-7 months if extended work hours are implemented to expedite it. She said that there appeared to be unanimous agreement that the staged construction over a longer period was preferred over the shorter-term detour. The report provides further details.
- e) **Report on 3/8 Senator Metzger Visit to Skinners Falls-Milanville Bridge** – Richardson reported that he was appreciative of Senator Metzger accepting his invitation to visit the bridge on a day when she had a meet & greet event in Cochecton. About a dozen people were there. He said Pontier spoke very well about the historic importance of the bridge. Everyone there agreed that this crossing needs to be preserved. The difference of opinion was over whether it should be rehabilitated to the minimum safety capacity or basically rebuilt for full capacity. He's not sure how much influence Sen. Metzger has since the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has the lead jurisdiction on this bridge but both states share in its cost. We made our point and will see where it goes. Ramie noted that the packet includes coverage by *The River Reporter* of the March 8 visit.
- f) **Marketing Committee Report** – Pizzolato reported that the Marketing Committee has not had the chance to get together and he doesn't know when that will happen. Given the current crisis, it may not make sense to advocate for people to travel. We've had ongoing advertising solicitation from Wild Rides, Inc. to include UDSB on their motorcycle touring map, but this may not be the "wild" audience we are seeking to encourage. Other publications are available. He has been

exploring digital advertising and put out requests for packages. He will share those rates and plans when they're available. He was most excited about the New York Times offer of a 2-4 week targeted campaign with newsletters. That seemed tailor fit for us. First, though, we need to be ready for our close-up. [www.UpperDelawareScenicByway.org](http://www.UpperDelawareScenicByway.org) contains a lot of outdated information and it is coded in an old format that is not particularly Android-friendly. He had a couple professionals look at it and they found that the site is not secure, which is why it has been prone to hacking. G. Dudko asked who is overseeing it now. Richardson replied that Nancy Furdock had graciously volunteered to continue maintaining it even after resigning from the committee, and that when he asked her to update a Cohecton Preservation Society listing, she took care of it in days. He said it's important that the website exist on a simple enough platform that this group's members can update it since otherwise we'll need to pay for maintenance services. Pizzolato said he believes that we need to invest money into updating the website if we're going to direct traffic to it. He sees that as being at the forefront of our marketing efforts. Pontier said he agrees that the website is a critical area for UDSB and that we will never be done updating it. Asked by Pontier who is serving on or would like to join the Marketing Committee to discuss these issues, Pizzolato, Spradling, DeCristofaro, Ramie, Velez, and Eisenberg were identified.

- g) **UDSB Brochure Supply Update** – Ramie reported that part of the Marketing outreach in the past has been hiring brochure distribution services to place the UDSB's "timeless" travelogue brochure into rest areas, welcome centers, and other outlets. We often receive solicitation for these services. UDC Secretary Ashley Hall-Bagdonas had done an inventory of the brochure boxes being stored in the Council's attic. She counted 31 full boxes which would contain 10,850 copies.
- h) **UDC 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Awards Ceremony Update** – A March 19 news release from the Upper Delaware Council revises the date of the awards banquet from May 3 to June 7 at the Central House Family Resort in Beach Lake, PA. The UDSB board had submitted a nomination for the Volunteer Award. Ramie said the selection of honorees has not yet been finalized and they are optimistically hoping that June 7<sup>th</sup> will be a safe date for the event.
- i) **Other** – Pizzolato said he wanted to bring up the targeting of the NYS Rt. 97 Hawk's Nest for numerous incidents of recklessness and near-accidents. He said there have been Facebook groups declaring "They can't take the Hawk's Nest away from us" that have organized gatherings, drag races, and are committing acts of vandalism. He said it borders on gang-like behavior. G. Dudko said the Town of Deerpark Police does spend time there and makes numerous arrests; she previously shared those statistics with the group. There are known troublemakers who elude them. Pontier wondered whether a time limit could be posted for people stopping at the scenic pull-offs. Pizzolato said he thinks it will take a drastic response to combat this, like putting up cameras or providing assistance of some sort to the police for their enforcement. Pontier said the Deerpark Police Department efforts have been adequate but this is a new issue. Kaspar suggested that UDSB, Inc. write a letter to bolster the efforts of the local force and New York State Police there. Pontier said we've certainly done that in the past to object to noise and recklessness. He doesn't get the impression that these are local groups. Pizzolato said he has noticed three groups that appear to be from the Sussex, NJ; Port Jervis; and Highland areas. They've been posting horrible things on Facebook, using the platform of social media to show off graffiti painted all over the road and walls for example. Pizzolato said this is obviously not good for tourism. This level of intimidation is a bad situation. Could UDSB offer funding to support efforts to counteract it? To him, this is the group's chief function. B. Dudko said you'd have to hide those cameras well and would probably need a repeater on the PA side since cell signals are weak in that area. That would be an expensive proposition. Pontier said we could outline our concerns and

willingness to collaborate. We can ask, how can we help you to work on a solution? B. Dudko said to be sure to copy the New York State Police; Orange County doesn't have a Sheriff's Department. Richardson said he agrees we should reach out. Before we commit any funds, what interest would our Orange County partners have in this? He's reluctant to spend our Sullivan County taxpayer funds on this. B. Dudko said to copy Orange County Legislator Tom Faggione who had attended our last meeting and spoke of the Legislature having funds available for their various districts. Ramie noted that the Dudkos had also spoken with NYS Assemblyman Karl Brabanec about funding for UDSB. Pontier asked if Pizzolato could initiate a letter with assistance from Ramie, the Dudkos, and Spradling? Pizzolato agreed, saying he was astounded at how up-front and organized these groups are on social media. Spradling said one request might be to support the reduction of the 55-mph speed limit through the Hawk's Nest. The time limit on parking is another option. Sweeping the area of violators would serve to assert the police's authority.

*[Note to minutes: G. Dudko provided this report on 3/25 – “I have spent some time following up on the issue of the problems on the Hawk's Nest as raised during our Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Meeting by John Pizzolato on 3/23/2020. I first called Dave Dean, a member of the Deerpark Town Board and the representative to the Upper Delaware Council to see if he was aware of these issues to be sure he was “in the loop”, and to ask him to make Gary Spears, the Town Supervisor, also aware of the Byway's concerns. Dave said that he drives over the Hawk's Nest almost every day, and is aware of the problem. As far as he knows, the problem is mostly with young guys racing each other with foreign cars. The town board has allocated money for extra patrols for weekends and especially for the summer when, historically, the problem gets worse. They have also made a deal with Hawk's Nest Hunting Club that owns the wide pull-off area on the western end of the Hawk's Nest where a lot of the “congregating” has been taking place. The hunting club has given the town permission to ticket anyone for trespass in this area. They are going to try to clamp down and make it “painful” and hope to discourage activity. I then called the Town of Deerpark's Police Chief's office and left a message. Chief Richard Sztynodor promptly returned my call. He said he was very aware of the problems going on with the racing and graffiti on the Hawk's Nest. He doesn't follow Facebook, but his one Sergeant does. He did agree that it seems to have become an inter-school challenge. He has two police cars on duty during the day on the weekend, and one is assigned full-time to the Hawk's Nest from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekends. During the week, a car drives up there from time-to-time, and they check as they can, but weekdays aren't the problem that weekends are. He realizes that this is a “special time” right now with the health crisis but, hopefully, this will be short-lived. Route 97 is, of course, a state highway, so the State Police also patrol the road, but are not there as much as they would like. They do send patrols when they can. I thanked the Chief and asked him to call me anytime he had anything further to report. He thanked the Byway for their interest. Dave Dean then called back after speaking with Supervisor Gary Spears. There will be some more Jersey barriers and signage going up, as unsightly and unwelcome as they are.”*

**Next Meeting Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, April 27, 2020 (Annual Meeting and Election of Officers)

**Adjourn:** On a **motion** by G. Dudko, seconded by Pontier, the March 23, 2020 UDSB teleconference meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

*Minutes prepared by Laurie Ramie, 3/29/20*