

Wendy

Hudson Valley Rail Trail Association
Annual Meeting Minutes 06.03.2023

Meeting: President Peter Bellizzi called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM at the pavilion at 101 New Paltz Road, Highland, NY.

Board Members Present: Rafael Diaz, Erik Hazleton, Patti Scott, Marie Sidgwick, Susan Van De Bogart, Chrissy Wolcott.

Board Members Absent: Loretta Miller, Eric Norberg, Fred Pizzuto.

Guests Speaker: Susan Togut, Trail Art

Members Present: C. & R. Costantino, K. Cordero, B. Dotterer, M. Gomez, D. Reid.

Welcome: Peter welcomed all in attendance, and introduced the HVRTA Board members and indicated their roles.

The **06.04.2022 HVRTA Annual Meeting Minutes** were read and approved on a motion made by Rafael and seconded by Chrissy.

Susan Togut was introduced and spoke about her background and experience in Public Art, and provided a visual presentation of past works, and physical presentation of completed panels for the Farmer's Bridge project. She discussed the Rail Trail's **Farmer's Bridge Art Project**, and indicated that a grant proposal has been submitted for a **Community Art Project**.

Peter provided a **2022 Year in Review:**

- **Historical Signage** research has been completed, signage developed, and placement along the length of the trail is pending.
- **Little Free Library** has been developed with the help of Elise Viola and Ron Grooms. It has been installed in the kiosk at the Commercial Avenue parking area. Sara Ottaviano, Highland Public Library, assisted in selection of the books provided for opening it, as well as many other members of the community who donated their used books.
- **Springfest** was held last week. We have newly entered into a one year fee agreement with Walkway for **Springfest** and **Walktoberfest**.
- Status of the Haviland Road Parking Lots was discussed.
 - **Main Lot:** Brooks & Brooks has laid out the plan, with revisions to include alignment of the parking lot and trail entries, converting to a single entry/exit to the lot, angled parking spaces, enlargement of the area surrounding the caboose and handicapped parking, and placement of bollards. This plan needs be approved by Central Hudson.
 - **100 Haviland Road Lot:** Water attenuation planned. Lot to remain unpaved.
 - **Parking Lot C:** Once stream channeled through pipe and ground leveled it will provide an additional 500 ft of parking area.

- **Town of Lloyd Events Committee** had a successful inaugural **Clover Classic 5K** on the Rail Trail March 18th.
- **Highland Rotary Club** held a Comedy Club Night to fund raise for repairs to the pavilion at 101 New Paltz Rd.
- **Peter** stated that **2 caboose stoves** were donated to the HVRTA.
- **Patti** spoke about the status of the Berm on 299. She is working to maintain and improve the area that was started last year.
- **Peter** indicated that **Garone's Nursery** has worked at the Commercial Avenue Kiosk area garden.
- **Peter** acknowledged **Dave Reid** for planting **daffodils along the trail**.

Rafael suggested we add artwork along the trail in the area of the 299 Berm.

Peter announced **upcoming events for 2023**:

- Bike NY
- Walktoberfest
- Dutchess Ulster Alzheimer's Walk
- ALS Walk

Dave Reid talked about reviving the efforts develop a Daffodil Sale to fund raise for the Rail Trail. **Patti Scott** volunteered to work with him on the project. To be addressed at the July meeting.

HVRTA Board Member Election was held. All those on the ballot were elected for the terms as indicated.

Chrissy Wolcott stated that the HVRTA has received a **Strategic Planning grant** from the **National Park Service** which will begin this June and will seek input from all stake holders.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 10 AM on a motion by Susan, seconded by Eric.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Van De Bogart

for

Loretta Miller, Recording Secretary