



**Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, Inc. Steering Committee Meeting**

**Jun 3, 2024**

**11 AM-12:30 PM**

**River Center at Long Dock Park, Beacon**

**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, Inc. Steering Committee took place on June 3, 2024.

**Steering Committee Members Present:**

Ozzy Albra, Town of Fishkill; Melissa Cascini, NYNJTC; Zoe Chen, DOT; Linda Cooper, OPRHP; Meagan Fitzgerald, OPRHP; Kathleen Foley, Village of Cold Spring; Heather Gierloff, DEC; Brian Grahn, Little Stony Point Citizens Association; Lee Kyriacou, City of Beacon; Nancy Montgomery, Putnam County; Kathy Moser, OSI; Hank Osborn, NYNJTC; Emily Pereira, DEP; Katrina Shindledecker, Hudson Highlands Land Trust; John Van Tassel, Town of Philipstown; Evan Thompson, OPRHP; Chris Winward, Village of Nelsonville

**Steering Committee Members Not Present:**

Andy Chmar, HHFT Board; Hadrien Coumans, Lenape Center; Robyn Hollander, MNR; Dr. George Jackman, Riverkeeper; Lance Macmillan, DOT; Dr. Michael McKee, Philipstown Greenway Committee; Daniel Michaud, DEP; Emily Provensha, MNR; Nancy Stoner, OPRHP

**Staff Present:** Amy Kacala, MJ Martin, Lori Moss, Drew Polinsky, Rebeca Ramirez, Emily Selover (HHFT)

HHFT Executive Director Amy Kacala called the meeting to order at 11:10 AM and welcomed everyone present.

Kacala thanked the Steering Committee for their many years of collaboration and service before sharing a brief project update presentation, including an update on trail closure communications (beginning in late summer) related to Breakneck Connector and Bridge work.

Kacala noted that two years ago, the group had discussed shifting from a single Steering Committee into more topic-specific working groups given that the master planning for the project, which was why the Committee convened, is complete. The committee has only met twice a year since the Master Plan was updated and were prepared to shift to working groups



once the GEIS draft was complete. This meeting is the last meeting before the DGEIS is released (Fall of 2024), and so is the final meeting of the Steering Committee as currently composed.

The steering committee will evolve into working groups organized by project or programmatic topic, formed from existing Steering Committee members and additional partners or members of the public as may be appropriate given the topic. These working groups will be time-specific depending on the topic/purpose of the group. The working groups fall into two general categories:

1. **Site Plan-Specific:** These are highly technical working groups focused on engineering, legal, and permitting for specific projects. The Breakneck Connector and Bridge Working Group just kicked off and will meet through construction to monitor progress.
2. **Topical:** These working groups will focus on a specific area of expertise that informs the design or interaction with the park. Three are identified to start this year:
  - a. Accessibility Working Group
  - b. Interpretation Working Group
  - c. Ecology Working Group

Kacala thanked the group again for their years of partnership and encouraged everyone to find a way to stay involved.

Following the presentation, the Committee gave reactions and feedback, and asked questions of HHFT staff. The group discussed the timing and formation of new working groups.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM and the group enjoyed an informal lunch.

Respectfully submitted by:

EMILY SELOVER

COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE

HUDSON HIGHLANDS FJORD TRAIL, INC.