

Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc.

January 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Voting members:

Glenn Pontier, Town of Highland rep., Chairperson
Nancy Furdock, Village of Hancock rep., Vice-Chairperson
Larry Richardson, Town of Cochecton rep., Secretary-Treasurer
Ginny Dudko, Town of Deerpark rep.
Rosie DeCristofaro, Town of Delaware rep.
Teresa Spradling, City of Port Jervis rep.
Freda Eisenberg, Sullivan County alternate
John Pizzolato, Town of Highland alt.
Bill Dudko, Town of Deerpark alt.

Non-voting members:

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 held at the Upper Delaware Council office in Narrowsburg to order at 7:00 p.m.

Business Items:

- a.) **Approval of November 25, 2019 Meeting Minutes:** On a **motion** by Dudko, seconded by Richardson, the meeting minutes were approved, with all in favor.

b.) **Correspondence Report:**

Ramie presented the following report of correspondence received and sent since the last meeting, noting that the list was longer than usual since there was no meeting in December:

Outgoing Correspondence:

1. To Focus Media, 11/25: UDSB ¼ page ad for Orange County Tourism 2020 Travel Guide. (Receipt acknowledged on 11/26).
2. To Glenn Pontier, 11/25: Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association Annual Meeting & Holiday Celebration 12/5 invitation, UDSB entitled to two comp tickets (from Laurie).
3. To Larry Richardson, 11/25: Instructions on method to request a meeting with Senator Metzger re: Skinners Falls Bridge (from Glenn) and invitation to Wayne County Planning 12/4 meeting (from Laurie).
4. To Christine Colley, NYS DOT, 11/25: UDSB, Inc. advance questions for 12/6 National Scenic Byways conference call/WebEx meeting. (Receipt acknowledged on 11/26).
5. To Orange County Tourism, 11/26: 2020 Travel Guide Advertising Contract with \$750 payment.
6. To John Pizzolato, 11/27: Seeking documentation of final ads and invoice for 1010 WINS campaign (from Larry).
7. To UDSB Committee, 11/27: Summary of Action Items from Nov. 25, 2019 UDSB Meeting.
8. To UDSB Contact List, 12/3: Draft Minutes from UDSB Nov. 25, 2019 Meeting.
9. To Barbara Yeaman, Charlottesville, VA, 12/5: UDC appreciation for enduring legacy of contributions to the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Valley upon 95th birthday (cc from Upper Delaware Council.)
10. To Barbara Yeaman, 12/8: 95th birthday wishes on behalf of UDSB Chairperson Glenn Pontier and the volunteer committee.
11. To John Pizzolato, 12/9: Response to question on unpaid invoices for 1010 WINS ad campaign: payment due by Ecce B&B and Greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce (from Larry).
12. To Jianxian Dai, NYS DOT, 12/11: Corrections to minutes from 12/6 conference call (from Laurie).
13. To UDSB Committee, 12/11: Scenic Byway National Designation Phone Conference minutes from NYS DOT forwarded.
14. To Larry Richardson, 12/11: Authorization to pay the 1010 WINS outstanding invoice. Account is at 120 days past due (from Glenn; online payment completed on 12/13).

15. To UDSB Municipalities, 12/19: 2020 Membership Update Request forms and reminder invoice for contributions toward operational expenses. (Laurie also completed a voucher at the Town of Delaware's request.)
16. To Brian Ehrlich, Mystic, CT, 12/19: Mailed one copy of Peter Osborne's Fort Decker book based on purchase through UDSB website.
17. To Terry Whitt, CPA, Hancock, 1/6: UDSB would like to retain your services to prepare its 2019 IRS Form 990 and NYS Charities Bureau Form 500. Financial statements enclosed.
18. To Alan Sorensen, Rock Hill, 1/6: Sympathy card to Sorensen family from UDSB for death of Alan's son.
19. To UDSB Committee, 1/7: Announcement of Sullivan County Legislative Discretionary Contract award of \$25,000 to UDSB, Inc. for 2020 (forwarded by Laurie).
20. To Freda Eisenberg and Heather Jacksy, Sullivan County Planning, 1/7: Inquiry from Debra Conway on status of the county's Request for Proposals to repair historic markers, including at Roebing's Delaware Aqueduct in the Town of Highland. (Response from Freda, 1/7: "We've not received any responses and are revising the RFP to take out the removal and installation component, which will now be done by the County's DPW. We believe that this change will get us responses and get us going.")
21. To Paul DeMarco, Freeman Enterprises, 1/10: Acknowledgement of UDSB hotline voicemail re: production of Hudson Valley/Catskill Motorcycle Tourism Map. (Forwarded to Marketing Committee)
22. To Paul DeMarco, 1/13: Request to email UDSB a digital copy of the above map and pricing list, for discussion at 1/27 meeting (from Nancy).
23. To Towns of Lumberland, Cocheton, Delaware, and City of Port Jervis (individually), 1/17: UDSB, Inc. appreciation for 2020 municipal contributions.
24. To UDSB Contact List, 1/17: Preliminary draft agenda for Jan. 27 UDSB meeting.
25. To Christine Colley and Kris Gilbert, 1/24: UDSB will discuss National Scenic Byway designation at 1/27 meeting then decide whether a presentation on that topic is warranted.

Incoming Correspondence:

1. From Delaware County Chamber of Commerce, weekly: News from Your Chamber online newsletter.
2. * From Getaways on Display, 11/27: Literature rack distribution packages for PA, NJ, DE, MD, VA.
3. From Jianxin Dai, NYS DOT, 12/4: List of questions from Upper Delaware Scenic Byway and Catskill Mountain Scenic Byway for National Scenic Byway Designation 12/6 conference call, with instructions.
4. From Sharon Strouse, executive director, National Scenic Byways Foundation, 12/6: Information from Federal Highway Administration on National Scenic Byway anticipated designation process.
5. From John Pizzolato, 12/9: Accounting for 1010 WINS ad campaign with outstanding invoices noted (to Larry).
6. From Jeff Bank, 12/9: UDSB account statement ending 11/29/19 with \$34,296.28 balance.
7. * From Nicolas Choubah, regional director, NYS DOT Region 9, 12/9: Response to UDSB letter on Guide Rail replacement on Rt. 97. (Forwarded to committee)
8. * From Jianxin Dai, NYS DOT, 12/11: Meeting minutes from National Scenic Byway 12/6 conference call and additional materials (Designation Readiness Worksheet, FY 2008 Nomination Guide, etc.)
9. From Kris Gilbert, NYS DOT, 12/13: Follow-ups from potential vista clearing work in Highland tour.
10. From Christine Colley, NYS DOT, 12/17: Article for Transportation Professional Practice Network blog on "Reviving America's Scenic Byways Act of 2019", includes Hawks Nest photo contributed by UDSB. (Forwarded to committee)
11. * From Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association, 12/19: Membership invoice for UDSB, \$100 dues payable in 30 days. (Forwarded to Larry)
12. * From Christina Milk, Mike Preis Inc., 12/23: UDSB Directors & Officers insurance policy; return signed Confirmation of Material Form and Total Cost Form (\$956) by 2/20 for 3/6 policy renewal.
13. From Stephanie Kistner, Orange County Tourism Coordinator, 1/02: 2020 Travel Guide ad solicitation for UDSB. (Laurie advised that UDSB already paid and sent in its ad.)
14. * From Christine Colley, 1/3: National Scenic Byways Program website has launched, online portal for applications will open on 2/13/20 and close on 5/15/20. All American Road nominations also accepted. Inquired whether UDSB intends to apply. (Laurie responded that the next meeting is 1/27 to discuss.)
15. From Kris Gilbert, 1/6: Historic Markers along Rt. 97 from NYS DOT Landscape Architecture and Environmental Unit. (Forwarded to committee and other partners)
16. From Michelle Huck, executive assistant, Sullivan County, 1/7: Sullivan County Legislature's 2020 Legislative Discretionary Funding Resolution 468-19. Congratulations to successful applicants. County Attorney's Office working on contracts.
17. From Town of Lumberland, 1/7: 2020 Membership form: representative, Vacant; alternate, Noah Kalina.
18. From Christine Colley, 1/7: National Scenic Byway Designation – template with questions.
19. * From Nancy Furdock, 1/8: Need approval to submit payment to renew two domains (upperdelawarescenicbyway.com and .org) for three years at a total cost of \$287.88 (to Larry and Glenn; 1/8 response by Glenn, I support this but let's add to the Jan. meeting for discussion).

20. From Sullivan County, 1/8: Membership form: representative Heather Jacksy; alternate, Freda Eisenberg.
21. From Town of Highland, 1/8: Membership form: representative Glenn Pontier; alternates, Debra Conway and John Pizzolato.
22. * From Lance MacMillan, regional director, NYS DOT Region 8, 1/8: Directional signs, destination guide signs and trail blazers for Orange County portion of the UDSB corridor in the Town of Deerpark and City of Port Jervis will be completed by spring of 2020.
23. * From Terry Whitt, CPA, 1/9: "Just letting you know I received the info for the tax filings of the Byway for 2019. I will have to prepare a 990-EZ for the NY report. My tax program is telling me that won't be available until after mid-February. I will send everything together after the form is available."
24. * From Holly Gassler, SCVA, 1/13: Thank you for advertising in the 2020 Sullivan Catskills Travel Guide. Copy enclosed (see ad on page 48). 2020 Media Opportunities sheet enclosed.
25. From Town of Delaware, 1/13: Membership form: representative Rosie DeCristofaro; alternate Robin Mailey.
26. From SCVA, 1/13: 2020 membership decal to display at place of business.
27. From Jeff Bank, 1/13: UDSB account statement ending 12/31/19 with \$31,665.28 balance.
28. From Town of Lumberland, 1/13: 2020 municipal contribution of \$1,000.
29. From Town of Delaware, 1/13: 2020 municipal contribution of \$1,000.
30. From Town of Cohecton, 1/13: 2020 municipal contribution of \$1,000.
31. From Town of Deerpark, 1/14: Membership form: representative Virginia Dudko; alternate William Dudko.
32. From National Scenic Byway Foundation, 1/15: Membership solicitation.
33. From Larry Richardson, 1/16: I have ordered Tax Form 1099 MISC; expect to have it by 1/27 (to Laurie).
34. From City of Port Jervis, 1/17: 2020 membership contribution of \$250.
35. From Carrie Mackey, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, 1/17: Renewal of mining permit for Little Joseph Realty Sand & Gravel Mine, Rt. 97, Town of Cohecton.
36. From Nancy Furdrock, 1/20: Grants page has been established on the UDSB website.
37. From Town of Highland, 1/21: 2020 membership contribution of \$500.
38. From Christine Colley, NYS DOT, 1/21: Offer to make a 20-minute presentation on the National Scenic Byway designation process at the next UDSB meeting. (Laurie forwarded it to the committee for input.)
39. * From Phone.com Customer Care, 1/23: Invoice for \$155.78. (Laurie forwarded electronic invoice to Larry).
40. * From Paul DeMarco, 1/27: Copies of ad prices and map for Motorcycle Touring Map.
41. * From Kris Gilbert, 1/27: NYS DOT Region 9 Projects Update and Highland vistas follow-up.

Ramie 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. For 2020, all municipalities have sent in operational donations with the exception of the Towns of Tusten and Deerpark. Spradling said she has asked if the City of Port Jervis will increase its \$250 donation. That was due to be voted on by the City Council tonight. Ramie said that the representatives and alternates listed in bold indicate that those appointment forms were received for 2020, although the others may not have any changes. New appointments included John Pizzolato as a co-alternate with Debra Conway for the Town of Highland. He also represents the Greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce as a non-voting member. The Town of Deerpark's form names William Dudko as alternate. Ramie inquired of former alternate Norma Schadt whether she stepped down but has not heard back. Bill Dudko said that it would typically be the case that if Ginny isn't available for the meeting, he would not be either if they were traveling.

c.) **Treasurer's Report:**

Richardson reviewed transactions reflected on his written report, backed up to November 25, 2019. The current balance is \$35,415.28. He also offered a handout of all 2019 transactions. One \$100 discrepancy was from the sale of UDSB dedication books by Joan Santo, which came in at the same time she was paying for a 1010 WINS ad and had been listed as a donation instead. There are two outstanding payments of \$250 each due from the Greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce and ECCE B&B for that ad campaign. Pizzolato asked whether UDSB, Inc. has suggested asking for donations from non-voting members. Pontier said that might scare them away, while Eisenberg said it could also serve to engage them. On a **motion** by Dudko, seconded by DeCristofaro, the Financial Report was accepted, with all in favor. Richardson also presented a draft budget for 2020 with expenses of \$42,650.00 and income of \$31,100 projected. He reviewed each budget line, saying these are merely his suggestions based on past

trends. Pontier brought up adding a category for support from non-voting members. He noted that the municipal donations have tended to range from \$250 to \$1,000. Furdock asked whether that would compete with membership for the general public through the website. Richardson said those donations wouldn't be for membership as businesses receive. Pizzolato said that incentives could be offered though in a fundraising letter, such as support us at a \$250 level and qualify for an ad. He observed that several people at the Barryville Farmers' Market had said they heard about the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway through the 1010 WINS ads. We may want to pursue that type of idea again through a different medium or in a different season. Pontier said UDSB had invested \$8,500 towards that radio campaign, while \$4,000 was raised from businesses to cover the cost. Pontier said we still need to cover our visitor guide ads for Orange and Sullivan Counties out of that \$10,000 allocated for advertising. Richardson said that amount can be easily increased. Pizzolato asked if there is anything that could be outsourced with the website promotion, such as investing in search engine optimization. That's another justification for supporting UDSB. Eisenberg said that the Roscoe Chamber of Commerce had paid to have their website come up with certain keyword searches and found it was effective. Furdock has been maintaining the website for free but with all of the businesses that come and go, it needs constant updating. Furdock said the more you invest, the better it is for visibility. She agreed that we need to get our listings in order. She has consistently requested help with that. Pizzolato said that's a good use of marketing funds. Pontier asked everyone whether they feel \$10,000 is sufficient to earmark for advertising. Pizzolato said we need to spend the money that we're given to show that we're investing it wisely and producing results. On a **motion** by Pontier, seconded by Furdock, the committee agreed to raise the Advertising budget line to \$15,000, with all in favor. Richardson asked if that includes making any changes to the website. Pontier suggested letting the Marketing Committee propose how best to spend the \$15,000. G. Dudko expressed appreciation to Richardson for compiling the budget. W. Dudko asked if UDSB, Inc. has gone after funding from Orange County? Pontier said yes, that it has been project-oriented in the past, and noted that while the byway accounts for a small area of Orange County, it is an iconic part of it with the Hawk's Nest and stretches to I-84 along Rt. 6 in Port Jervis. Lastly with Richardson's report, he detailed new bills received: reimbursement to Furdock for \$287.88 for a three-year renewal of UDSB's two domain names; \$956 to Mike Preis Insurance to renew the Directors and Officers policy, \$155.78 to Phone.com for the virtual hotline, and \$100 to Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association (SCVA) for annual membership dues. On a **motion** by Dudko, seconded by DeCristofaro, Richardson was authorized to pay those bills, with all in favor. On the subject of the SCVA, Pontier distributed copies of the Association's 2019 Annual Report that had been disseminated at their holiday gathering in December. Pontier noted that he represents UDSB, Inc. as a non-voting member.

d.) **2019 Federal and State Filings** – Ramie noted that she had sent the UDSB financial information for the year to accountant Terry Whitt on Jan. 6. He acknowledged receipt and said that the tax program to enable filing of the 990-EZ form is expected to open in mid-February. He will send all of the materials at that time. On a **motion** by Richardson, seconded by Furdock, the committee officially approved retaining the services of Terry Whitt, CPA, of Hancock to prepare IRS and New York State Charities Bureau filings for UDSB, Inc., with all in favor.

d.) **Grants: Butterfly Promotion; Business & Non-profit Signs; Vista Enhancement:**
No applications were received this month. Pontier said that we should remind all our constituencies that UDSB offers these three types of grant programs. Pizzolato said that the Butterfly Ball, which UDSB supported last year with a grant, is being taken over by the Farmers' Market Committee. They are looking to make it more educational about pollinators and schedule it around harvest time. The Butterfly Bike Ride will not be repeated due to having too many safety issues. That event may be turned into a walk instead. G. Dudko noted that early September would coincide with the monarch migration.

e.) **Other:** None

Public Comment: None

Discussion Items:

- a) **National Scenic Byway and All-American Road Designation: Nominations open 2/13-5/15/20** – Notes from the Dec. 6 conference call on this subject in which eight Upper Delaware people participated were handed out. Ramie noted that NYS DOT Scenic Byways Coordinator Christine Colley has offered to come give a 20-minute presentation on it if UDSB is interested in potentially submitting an application. DeCristofaro said she initially thought that seeking All-American Road status was the way to go but as she listened during that call, she now thinks that we should fall short. There are still two towns that haven't become members and that's a large part of the byway. Pizzolato said it sounded to him like a lot of extra work and more potential scrutiny. Richardson said he didn't hear that it would bring down any additional regulations. They said no to that question. The designation brings no power to regulate transportation issues. Spradling said she also heard them say that the local municipalities still have control. Pontier said what he heard is that it would involve an incredible amount of work for an honorary designation that wouldn't necessarily translate into more visitation or business. Furdock asked how often this nomination process opens up. Pontier said they don't know. The federal government just put out the rules. They're not sure of the length of time it will be offered or whether any money is available from it. It was all very "iffy". Pontier said after listening, he wasn't enthused although he doesn't view it as more government. From a planning point of view, it might make sense. Richardson said while there was no guaranteed federal funding, this designation could open up private funding sources. There is also no guarantee that the nomination would be successful. Ramie said one of the points made was that applicants should have current corridor management plans. The UDSB Enhancement Concept was finalized in 2002 and has not been update since then. They also said that the application process appeared to be arduous enough to warrant hiring a consultant, but that would be at the organization's expense. Pontier said we should consider seeking funding to update our Plan. Perhaps an application could be made to Sullivan County Plans & Progress or an Upper Delaware Council Technical Assistance Grant for that. As a volunteer group, we need help to shepherd us through programs. With this National Scenic Byway opportunity, there would be a role for the National Park Service to play. This would presumably enhance their park. Could they take the lead? Kaspar asked if that is a question they would like her to bring back to the NPS Upper Delaware Management Team. Pontier said he's not sure there is the will to go ahead with this. Pizzolato said maybe we could benefit from a more thorough presentation to inform our decision. Eisenberg said this designation might be aspirational but it's a heavy lift at the moment. Furdock said she doesn't feel the need for another presentation. She doesn't feel we're ready or equipped to do this right now. We have enough activities on our plate and plenty to keep us busy. We're building momentum. DeCristofaro said we need to keep plugging away at bringing those two towns into the fold. Pontier said we've been invited to join the National Scenic Byway Foundation. We had joined that previously but didn't see much benefit from it. They do offer national awards, marketing and training benefits, and they can lobby. There is a \$150 fee. Furdock said if we spend that money, we should have a plan to utilize the benefits that membership confers. Pontier said that with no motion offered to join the Foundation, we would not. Ramie asked whether she should advise Colley that UDSB will not be pursuing National Scenic Byway designation based on this discussion. That was the consensus.
- b) **Allocation Plan for 2020 Sullivan County Legislative Discretionary Contract \$25,000 Award** – Pontier said we were very pleased to have Sullivan County approve this funding for UDSB. It represents a \$5,000 increase over last year's allocation. UDSB, Inc. had applied for \$30,000. He said that this funding helps the byway to support its grant programs, noting that the Vista Clearing and Signage grants each have carryovers while awaiting projects. He asked

Richardson to submit an invoice to the county. Ramie said the County Attorney's Office is drawing up the contract which must be executed, then we can submit an invoice. Pontier said we will time our thank you letter to when the contract is received.

- c) **Advertising: Hudson Valley/Catskill Motorcycle Touring Map** – Pontier asked if there is interest in taking an ad on the motorcycle touring map previously discussed. Richardson, DeCristofaro, and Pontier each expressed support for it. Pizzolato said he is aware of an alternative publication geared toward higher-end motorcycle enthusiasts that may be more appropriate. Pontier suggested referring this to the Marketing Committee to pursue.
- d) **Presenter Options for UDSB Spring Workshop** – Pizzolato said he reached out to a North Carolina company which referred him to a New York City company that organizes community cleanups then turns the recyclables into innovative products. He sent an inquiry and hasn't heard back yet. Pontier said that there is a clean-up proposed for the Upper Delaware in the spring. Dan Paparella confirmed that the Upper Delaware Council, on which he serves as an alternate representative for the Town of Tusten, is organizing an Upper Delaware Sweep from April 22-25 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. He has taken on the role of coordinator. Pontier said UDSB could hold a seminar at the end of the clean-up to discuss the use of recycled materials. Pizzolato said it would be great to have a reception to thank all of the helpers. It could be a big finish to the cleanup. Perhaps it could take place at the Narrowsburg Union. Pontier said this could be a presentation open to the public and/or a celebration of the clean-up with food and a speaker. He thinks the National Park Service would want to be associated with this. They helped us pay for the Union rental for our last program, or the Town of Tusten might want to have it at their hall to showcase their active recycling and energy programs. UDSB, Inc. has \$2,000 budgeted for a program in 2020. Richardson said he foresees this as a training opportunity and a recognition ceremony for the volunteers who put in the effort. Pizzolato said we could present awards and take photos. Kaspar said that the Park Service has a Water Snapshot program in which students do artwork focusing on stewardship. That includes schools from throughout the river valley. Maybe that artwork could be displayed at this event. Pizzolato said that Bethel Woods Center for the Arts has creative programming planned around Earth Day. Maybe they could be a partner also. Pontier said our first contribution could be nailing down an interesting speaker on the end uses for plastics. Furdock said we should arrange to videotape the cleanup and program since that footage is great for social media. Pontier said we will include this as a Discussion Item on the next agenda as well to continue this brainstorming and planning. W. Dudko asked whether Sullivan County could provide safety vests. Richardson said that the NYS Department of Transportation is very strict on the use of vests, hard hats, gloves, and pickers for these litter plucks along any state roads.

Follow-up Actions and Committee Reports:

- a) **NYS DOT Report** – Kris Gilbert had provided a written report. As a follow-up to the "vista views" drive that occurred on Nov. 15 in the Town of Highland, she had given the group's wish list to DOT officials to review. There is an offer that "herbicide crews can spray invasive species between the road and the river Rt. 97 southbound between route marker (RM) 1139-1141 and 1154-1160, and also poison ivy in the area of 1154-1160." Pontier said he wonders what the National Park Service thinks about herbicide spraying between the road and river. Kaspar said she will check with Natural Resources Chief Don Hamilton. Pontier said the question is, what product is used for invasive species? Gilbert's report also states that "over-the-rail mowing can be coordinated for the location between RM 1139-1141" but the timing is uncertain about equipment availability. "It would help us to know if there is a specific weekend prior to which the group would prefer that we use the mower in this location. We can keep the date in mind and see if it is possible to have the work done by then," Gilbert wrote. Pontier said the obvious date would be

ahead of April 25 Earth Day. Paparella said he is concerned over compromising water quality by removing vegetation and causing erosion. Pontier said that representatives from DOT and NPS participated in that reconnaissance tour. NPS would oppose any cuttings within scenic designations of the river corridor. Here, we're only talking about recreational segments. This is not clear-cutting. It is opening up windows to the river. The work would be thinning out limbs on trees and taking down invasive plants. Most of that area is old canal bed so it's relatively stable. He thinks it's doubtful that this work would cause erosion but it's possible. The goal is trying to increase the value of the scenery and make it a better experience for everyone. The river is shared by people and fish. We want to restore it to a time when the road and the river were more friendly to each other. In a flood, the river wins. Pizzolato said the three zones they examined are pretty unsightly right now. Furdock said she'd rather see natural vegetation cut back than the spraying of toxic chemicals. The goal is to leave the smallest footprint possible. Pizzolato said maybe we say no to the DOT's offer to spray herbicides. B. Dudko said there are other ways to address poison ivy. Gilbert's report also included an update of DOT capital projects along Rt. 97: guiderail work in the Towns of Delaware and Cochection; Bridge work in Cochection and Callicoon; Slope stabilization in the Towns of Fremont and Delaware; and long-term restoration work in the Town of Tusten RM 9602 1180-1240.

- b) **Callicoon Train Depot Update** – Depot Committee Chairperson Nicole Vallance was not able to attend but sent a note stating that the proposed lease agreement for the depot property has been presented to Central New York Railroad's attorney. They are moving forward with drafting a Request for Proposals for the design and architect while expecting to hear back soon on that. The USDA approved the grant application for \$100,000 of equipment and furnishings for this project. Pontier said that's great news which adds to the \$250,000 state grant that UDSB transferred over for the visitor center development and the \$75,000 that the Town of Delaware is providing to the project from the Sullivan Renaissance Silver Feather prize.
- c) **Webpage for UDSB Grants Program** – Furdock confirmed that she has created a webpage at www.upperdelawarescenicbyway.org with guidelines and application forms for the three UDSB grant programs.
- d) **Skidders Falls, NY-Milanville, PA Bridge Update** – Ramie reported that Wayne County, PA had organized a meeting on Dec. 4 of parties interested in the indefinitely closed bridge's preservation. They decided to put together a position statement to present to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation which has jurisdiction. The statement was drafted and put out for comments by Jan. 17, with Eisenberg and Ramie among those to offer edits. Ramie said she will share the final version with the committee when it is available. UDSB, Inc. may wish to sign on. Richardson said he provided this information to Senator Metzger's staff after the last UDSB meeting in a request for her support. He invited her to see the bridge and make use of the Cochection Town Hall for a presentation on it. He emphasized that while the bridge is in PennDOT's authority, New York State pays half the bill for repairs or replacement. His request for support is being evaluated.
- e) **Letter: "Guide to Scenic Highways & Byways: The 300 Best Drives in the U.S."** – Pontier said he will write this letter as previously discussed.
- f) **12/9 Reply from DOT Region 9: Guiderails Project** – Regional Director Nicolas Choubah replied to UDSB that they share the concern regarding the condition of the guide rail on Route 97. "The project mentioned above is scheduled to be awarded in 2020; the project will include 18 runs of guide rail on Route 97 along with additional runs on Route 42 and Route 17. There is an additional project on Route 97, PIN 938949, which includes runs of guiderail that are down due

to the slope behind the rail railing. In order to address these sites, substantial geotechnical design effort is needed; this project is scheduled to be awarded in 2021,” Choubah writes. Committee members commented that many of the orange barrels marking where the guide rail no longer exists are falling down the slopes and the situation appears very hazardous.

- g) **1/8 Reply from DOT Region 8: Signage Package for UDSB Orange County Corridor** – Regarding the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway signage plan in Orange County, Regional Director Lance MacMillan writes, “This work has been added to the current downstate sign requirements contract. The directional signs, destination guide signs and trail blazers for the Orange County portion of the scenic byway corridor in the Town of Deerpark and City of Port Jervis will be completed by the spring of 2020.” Committee members said this was excellent news following the positive reception of the new attraction signs in Delaware and Sullivan Counties.
- h) **Letter: Scenic Easement for NYS Rt. 97 Hawk’s Nest Private Property** – Ramie said there has been no reply to the UDSB’s Nov. 12 letter sent to Gene and Susan Bierhorst of Sparrowbush, NY broaching the idea of working with the Orange County Land Trust to set up a scenic easement to facilitate the DOT’s selective vegetation trimming work as needed in the privately-owned right-of-way section beyond the Hawk’s Nest wall.
- i) **Other:** 1) Eisenberg announced that Senator Metzger has appointed her to serve on the New York State Scenic Byways Advisory Committee. She just received that call on Friday and isn’t sure yet what it entails. Pontier said it will be great if she can advocate for dedicated funding in the New York State budget for the scenic byways it designates. 2) Paparella asked whether the UDSB Vista Enhancement Grants could be used for a fire tower that would provide a huge view of the river corridor below. Pontier said that’s an interesting proposal but development on ridge lines isn’t usually allowed by towns. He asked if it’s along the road. Paparella estimated it would be a hike of less than one mile. Furdock said from a Scenic Byway perspective, there could be opposition to it. Pontier likened it to cell towers.

Next Meeting Date: 4th Monday, February 24, 2020

Adjourn: On a **motion** by Dudko, seconded by Eisenberg, the January 27, 2020 UDSB meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Laurie Ramie, 2/1/20