

Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc.

June 1, 2020 Teleconference Meeting Minutes

(date rescheduled from regular 4th Monday monthly meeting in May)

Attendance:

Voting members:

John Pizzolato, Town of Highland representative, Chairperson
Rosie DeCristofaro, Town of Delaware rep., Vice-Chair
Larry Richardson, Town of Cocheton rep., Secretary-Treasurer
Ginny Dudko, Town of Deerpark rep.
Teresa Spradling, City of Port Jervis rep.
Bianca Velez, Town of Lumberland rep.
Josh Felderstein, Town of Tusten rep. (joined at 7:11 p.m.)
Debra Conway, Town of Highland alternate
Freda Eisenberg, Sullivan County alt.
Bill Dudko, Town of Deerpark alt.

Non-voting members:

Ingrid Peterec, National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River
Carmela Hugel, Sullivan Renaissance
Laurie Ramie, Upper Delaware Council

Guests:

none

Call to Order: Chairperson Pizzolato called the meeting conducted via conference call to order at 7:04 p.m. Attendance was taken through roll call.

Business Items:

- a.) **Approval of April 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes:** On a **motion** by G. Dudko, seconded by DeCristofaro, the meeting minutes were approved, with all in favor.

b.) **Correspondence Report and Updated Membership List:**

Ramie offered a written report of outgoing and incoming correspondence since the last meeting, which included one additional week of time. Asterisks indicate handouts or potential action items:

Outgoing Correspondence:

1. To UDSB Officers, 5/1: From John Pizzolato, notice of a May 3 site visit at the Callicoon Train Depot with Legislator Doherty with small group for social distancing.
2. To Lindsay Roig, Pond Eddy, 5/1: UDSB, Inc. acknowledgement of vista enhancement grant request. Will include on agenda of next 6/1 meeting.
3. To UDSB Committee, 5/2: Summary of Action Items from April 27, 2020 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. Meeting.
4. To Linda K. O'Brien, Hancock Community Education Foundation, 5/2: Congratulatory letter, the UDSB, Inc. voted on 4/27 in favor of approving your application for a 2020 Promoting Butterflies on the Byway grant. We are awarding \$555 (check to be sent separately) for the project as described.
5. To UDSB Distribution List, 5/2: Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. April 27, 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes.
6. To Nicole Vallance and Freda Eisenberg of the Callicoon Train Depot Committee, 5/4: From John Pizzolato, thank you and nice to meet your colleagues yesterday. Please advise of next steps that Sullivan County and the UDSB Committee can help with to advance the project?
7. To Margarita Lopez, Pond Eddy, 5/7: UDSB, Inc. acknowledgement of vista enhancement grant request.
8. To Town of Highland Board, 5/11: From John Pizzolato, proposal that the town consider appointing me as the UDSB representative with Debra Conway continuing as alternate and Glenn Pontier agreeing to stay on as a 2nd alternate, along with an update of current UDSB activities.

9. To Highland Supervisor Jeff Haas and Town Clerk Doreen Hanson, 5/11: UDSB Membership Form attached to above request.
10. *To Deerpark Police Department Chief Richard Szyndor, 5/11: From John Pizzolato, thank you for your time today. Ginny and Bill Dudko will take a ride with the police, hopefully before our next meeting, to identify the best spots to install surveillance for Hawk's Nest.
11. To Ann Leo, NYS DOT, 5/12: UDSB Chairperson John Pizzolato's request for dial-in information for Bridge Commission 5/27 meeting.
12. To UDSB Marketing Committee, 5/12: From John Pizzolato, forwarded information on Escape Brooklyn travel guide promotion, sent for consideration of Zoom meeting tonight.
13. To Media Outlets, 5/25: News release: "Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Elects Officers" with photo, issued by Laurie after vetting by Johnny, Larry, and Rosie. (Copied to UDSB Distribution List)
14. To UDSB Committee, 5/28: Preliminary draft agenda for 6/1 UDSB meeting, as rescheduled from 5/25.

Incoming Correspondence:

1. From Delaware County Chamber of Commerce, weekly: News from Your Chamber online newsletter.
2. *From Dan Hust, Sullivan County Director of Communications, 4/30: Legislature voted yesterday to fund the UDSB at \$20,000 (see attached list). "Please be assured that, even during this difficult time, the Committee's work remains important to the Legislature, including Chairman Doherty, in whose district some of the Byway sits. (I believe you also previously heard from Legislator Rajsz)."
 3. *From Lindsay Ring, Pond Eddy, 5/1: Request a grant to trim, remove and permanently treat the Japanese Knotweed on the riverfront portion of our properties in Pond Eddy. Photos included. Adjoining property owner Margarita Lopez will contact UDSB as well.
 4. From Linda K. O'Brien, 5/4: Thank you for the wonderful news about the Butterfly Grant approval on behalf of the Hancock Community Education Foundation. As soon as we come closer to completion, I will send you a copy of the press release.
 5. From Rhiannon Andrews, Fossil Industries, 5/6: Thank you for being a Fossil client (UDSB community interpretive signs project). Do you have any projects coming up where you may need durable signage?
 6. From Ed Mall, NYS DOT Sullivan County Resident Engineer, 5/5: Inquiry about issues with the tree removal work by contract on NYS Rt. 97 in the Town of Tusten as raised during the 4/27 UDSB meeting. Photos enclosed. "I could not find any high stumps at all on 97 and I went to the eagle watch right above Barryville... I also contacted NYSEG to find out why there are piles of brush left along the road from CR 23 south, and I am still waiting for an answer." (Martin Higgins responded, "They are doing a fine job - I must have just caught them in the midst of a work before our last Byway meeting. All work looks superb so far. Please let Ed know how much we appreciate it in Tusten!" Laurie relayed that message to Ed.)
 7. *From Margarita Lopez, Pond Eddy, 5/6: Vistas grant application letter to join the application with Lindsay Ring.
 8. *From Debra Conway, 5/6: The Delaware Company would like to pursue UDSB funding for viewshed clearing for The Kate Project, roughly from the parking lot of the Eagle Observation blind to the NPS property/entrance to the Towpath Trail downriver from the bridge. (After the full message was forwarded to officers, Larry Richardson replied, "Since the property in question is owned by DOT, I would suggest we ask Kris to common on what plans or help DOT might provide and what hurdles would need to be addressed in order to approve such a grant.)
 9. From Kris Gilbert, NYS DOT, 5/7: [Regarding above message] "I have sent an email to those who handle issuing permits and hope to get back to you soon with the specific details of what would be required in this case."
 10. *From Upper Delaware Council, Inc., 5/7: Courtesy copy of letter signed by UDC Chairperson Larry H. Richardson to Nicolas Choubah, NYS DOT Region 9, re: PIN 938949 - Guide Rail Slope Stabilization Project, Sullivan County.
 11. From Jeff Bank, 5/11: Statement for UDSB non-profit checking account ending 4/30/20, with \$33,617.82 balance.
 12. From NYS DOT Regional Director Nicolas Choubah, 5/11: Invitation to the 2020 New York-Pennsylvania Joint Interstate Bridge Commission meeting on 5/27 at 10 a.m. by WebEx. Email our office to obtain the information and link.
 13. *From Kris Gilbert, NYS DOT, 5/11: Attached is an application for a Highway Work Permit which is what would be required to allow for selective brush clearing on the DOT right-of-way. Send it to Paul Hahn for approval. Note the insurance requirements.
 14. *From Kris Gilbert, NYS DOT, 5/12: Additional information received about the application process for UDSB viewshed clearing in Highland, recommendations of items to include with the PERM33 form.
 15. From Christine Colley, NYS DOT Scenic Byways Coordinator, 5/14: NYS Parks is undertaking a Statewide Greenway Plan for New York State to develop a system of non-motorized multi-use trails. Take a survey at www.greenwaysplan.org. Scoping documents and other announcement can be found at <https://parks.ny.gov/inside-our-agency/master-plans.aspx>. Comments are due to 5/31.
 16. From Nonna Hall, owner of small business Nonneta and Friends Creative on Old Brook Road in Barryville, 5/14: Concerns about NYS Department of Environmental Conservation issuing a permit to allow the discharge of 17,000 gallons of treated wastewater per day into a tributary of the Delaware River for the Eldred Preserve development.

17. From Town of Highland Clerk Doreen Hanson, 5/14: 2020 Membership Update form listing John Pizzolato as the town's UDSB representative, with Debra Conway and Glenn Pontier as alternates.
18. *From Brian Scardefield, Sullivan County Director of Parks, Recreation & Beautification, 5/14: The county has decided to start up the Roadside Litter Pluck beginning May 18 through June 30. (Followed up with 5/18 news release and flyer.)
19. From National Scenic Byway Foundation, 5/19: Newsletter with article, "Americans Hit the Road for the Great American Road Trip Revolution" and a column on Public Relations & Publicity Tips.
20. From Carol Truppi, 5/21: Forward of notice from Scenic America of the 6/15/20 deadline extension for applications to the Federal Highway Administration for nominations to the new National Scenic Byways. (Laurie responded with an update on the committee's discussion of updating the 2002 Enhancement Concept Plan as its next step.)
21. *From Michelle Huck, Assistant County Manager, 5/22: Confirmation of \$20,000 in funding for UDSB through the 2020 Legislative Discretionary Contract Program as a result of the adoption of Resolution 179-20.
22. From Francisca Rivera and Margarita Lopez, 5/27: Concerned Rt. 97 homeowner complaints about noise on the river and along the Hawk's Nest. "I thought it would be a good idea to place small speed bumps on that road given that speed should be 25 mph anyway." (Laurie forwarded to UDSB chairperson, Deerpark representative/alternate, NPS Chief Ranger, Deerpark Police Chief, Town Supervisor and UDC Deerpark Representative, with response describing efforts UDSB Committee is making to address Hawk's Nest issues, which the writer acknowledged on 5/28 by stating in part, "We appreciate your hard work and prompt response to our concerns.")
23. *From Kris Gilbert, NYS DOT, 6/1: NYS DOT Report for monthly meeting.

An updated UDSB, Inc. Membership Directory was provided. Corrections were noted to the email addresses for the Deerpark representative and alternate, and Richardson noted on behalf of non-voting member, the Cocheton Preservation Society, Keith Krauss has replaced Joseph Manasari as chairperson after Manasari relocated out of the area.

c.) Treasurer's Financial Report, Confirmation Letter of Sullivan County \$20,000 Allocation:

Richardson reviewed transactions reflected on his written report. The current balance is \$33,012.82. There are no outstanding bills. On a **motion** by DeCristofaro, seconded by G. Dudko, the financial report was approved, with all in favor.

UDSB, Inc. received a letter dated 5/19 from Sullivan County Assistant Manager Michelle Huck stating, in part, "The County of Sullivan, like most other New York State counties, will be facing unprecedented fiscal challenges as a result of the economic disruption resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and expected State Aid reductions as a result of the recently adopted New York State 2020-2021 budget. As a result of the above the Sullivan County Legislature took action on April 29, 2020 pursuant to Resolution No. 179-20 to reduce our workforce as well as reduce the funding for a vast majority of the organizations that were previously granted funding through the Legislative Discretionary program. Unfortunately, as a result of the adoption of Resolution 179-20, your organization is now being funded \$20,000 through the Legislative Discretionary Contract Program 2020."

Pizzolato commented that we are very lucky to get the \$20,000. The Sullivan County Legislature is relying on this organization to reimagine the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway's future and prove its importance to the county at large. He pledged that we will make good on their investment.

d.) Grant Applications: Vista Enhancement; Butterfly Promotion; Business & Non-profit Signs:

Ramie reported that two application were received for Vista Enhancement Grants, one from Lindsay Ring and Margarita Lopez for adjoining properties in Pond Eddy, and one from The Delaware Company for a Barryville property. Correspondence regarding both applications was provided in the handouts. Pizzolato noted that Ring is gathering additional information and requests tabling that application. He asked Conway to describe The Delaware Company's proposal. Conway said the committee has previously been informed about "The Kate Project" which envisions eventually placing a bronze statue of a young girl pulling a mule along the D&H Canal towpath, similar to a statue at the Erie Canal Museum in Syracuse, in an area that would extend the National Park Service's Towpath Trail that starts underneath Roebing's

Delaware Aqueduct to the Highland River Access and Eagle Observation Blind with the installation of benches, interpretive historic signage, and trailhead snubbing posts along the new path. Conway said if The Delaware Company can raise the money for this, it will be “a real showstopper” along NYS Rt. 97. With all the grant freezes in place though, she would like to get started with the viewshed clearing aspect of this. The idea is to clean up the scrubby vegetation. She has contacted the NYS Department of Transportation since this involves their property and finds all of the bureaucratic requirements for work permits and insurance confusing. She’s not sure how to get an estimate from a contractor to know what amount of money to ask for or how far they could go on the property. She would like more guidance from DOT on that. Pizzolato said at an earlier meeting he had with the Greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce (GBCC), they agreed to co-sponsor this project. They have experience and relationships in dealing with the DOT from installing their Welcome to Barryville signs, which took eight months to secure the permits, and they were able to get a waiver for the workers’ comp requirement. Conway said she assumes that would be based on having no employees. Pizzolato said he regards this project to exist in three phases: 1) Path Clearing; 2) Signage & Benches; and 3) Statue. Conway said that’s correct. Peterec said that when a subcommittee did a driving tour last fall as arranged by Heather Jacksy of Rt. 97 in the Town of Highland with Kris Gilbert from DOT, they talked about their specific goals for selective clearing there and Gilbert had returned a document summarizing that. Conway asked Ramie if she could forward her a copy of that report. Richardson asked whether the NYS DOT owns that property as right-of-way or in fee. Peterec said she believes there are both cases in that vicinity. Conway said she got bounced all over DOT when she asked for a property survey. Pizzolato suggested relying on the tax map, which shows for example the extent of the property that the federal government owns around the Roebling Bridge. Peterec said because the stretch is so narrow between the road, and the river, it’s probably a DOT right-of-way. The state does own some property that contains canal remnants. Pizzolato said to move this along, the GBCC will work with The Delaware Company on the work permit and insurance issues, and perhaps can consult with the National Park Service as well to prepare a joint Vistas Enhancement Grant to UDSB. Conway asked what funding is available, noting that she anticipates the work could be done with a weed whacker and chain saw since there is no major tree felling needed. Improving the view to the river there would be a big benefit for the highway. Pizzolato said that UDSB has budgeted \$11,000 for this grant program. Richardson said we need to reassess our budget based on funding cuts. He suggested that this clearing could be a multi-year project. Regarding the Pond Eddy vista clearing, Pizzolato said that project involves Japanese Knotweed removal. Peterec asked if the group is aware of the Japanese Knotweed project that Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Inc. (FUDR) intends to start this summer which involves test plots at the NYS DEC Skinners Falls Access? Richardson said he recently asked the NPS acting superintendent for information on that. He doesn’t feel we should spend a lot of money on Japanese Knotweed removal only to have it grow up again pending the outcome of that demonstration study. Peterec said that clearcutting it alone does not reduce the problem. She thinks we will have a better understanding of Japanese Knotweed because of this multi-year project. The Skinners Falls test plots will employ various techniques including goats, brushhog, layering, and one control area. Velez said she has been helping Ring to gather resources on Japanese Knotweed and would appreciate receiving more details. Ramie offered to put her in contact with Steve Schwartz from FUDR and Jessica Newbern, NPS biologist. Richardson asked whether UDSB, Inc. has any Japanese Knotweed mitigation brochures left in its supply. Ramie said yes, several boxes remain; that was a project that former Village of Hancock UDSB Representative Jim Serio had initiated. Pizzolato asked Ramie to share copies of that with committee members.

e.) **Other Business Items:** None

Public Comment: None

Discussion Items:

- a) **Hawk's Nest Criminal Enforcement Assistance Options** – B. Dudko reported that a meeting took place with Deerpark Police Chief Richard Stzyndor. He would like to come to a future UDSB meeting in person to discuss the Hawk's Nest enforcement issues. The chief said he must look into the legal ramifications and costs associated with manpower to monitor surveillance cameras. It would take many hours to review the footage that cameras would collect. V. Dudko said in the meantime they are issuing tickets there as warranted during their patrols. B. Dudko said there had been a motorcycle-car accident at the Hawk's Nest yesterday. Pizzolato said that Velez has been researching solar cameras and other options. Perhaps a meeting can be arranged to provide the chief with the technology findings. Velez said that radar units have been scientifically proven to reduce speed. They can range anywhere from \$700 to \$10,000. We could apply for grants. Some radar units have video capabilities as well to record the speed and time. It would need to be explored whether taking photos of license plates is considered a privacy violation. B. Dudko said it would take numerous cameras to cover the twisty road's various angles. Pizzolato said there are still intimidating crowds gathering at the Hawk's Nest causing a ruckus and he has seen vandalism extend to the Pond Eddy Bridge as well. He proposed that he, Velez, and the Dudkos participate in a conference call to share information before potentially arranging a presentation for the Deerpark Police Chief.
- b) **UDSB Marketing Plan: Getting Ready for Our Close-up** – The Marketing Committee met by Zoom conference on May 12. DeCristofaro reported that the major focus was needing to assure that the website is current. The committee also favored a promotional campaign with Escape Brooklyn. Pizzolato said they offered a three-tiered approach in their media package and had “put a lot of businesses on the map” in this area. He said the committee felt we should spend this time when travel and activities are restricted to focus on all the traditional uses of the river and get ready for when we are able to promote our attractions again. He noted there is a security flag on the UDSB website currently. He spoke to Nancy Furdock about transferring the website from her servers to our own host site, which he said would cost about \$100 per year. Pizzolato said a full website overhaul isn't recommended at this time. We just want to make sure the information is up-to-date and that we can integrate social media. We need to work backwards on the site's security and content then talk about broad strokes. Each Marketing Committee member agreed to review the business listings for their areas to identify what changes are needed. The Escape Brooklyn promotion could be viable for later this summer. We can hold on to some of our marketing budget until leaf-peeping season or next year. We have enough brochures on hand. The next step is to pivot to modern technology. Felderstein agreed that this is a good time to get ready to hit the ground running when everything opens up again.
- c) **Anti-Littering Community Signage Update** – Pizzolato had forwarded new prototypes of six anti-littering signs for Deerpark, Pond Eddy, Barryville, Narrowsburg, Cochection, and Callicoon that incorporate the committee's feedback from the last meeting to representatives for those communities. He reported that the Greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce, the Narrowsburg Chamber of Commerce, and sign designer Eve Fisher had agreed to put up the funds for several of the signs. He asked whether the Cochection Preservation Society would fund the one for Cochection? Richardson said they haven't typically done that sort of thing in the past since their funding is limited but he could ask. DeCristofaro said that posting the sign at the Cochection Station would be very appropriate. Richardson agreed they would have no problem with the messaging but funding it is the question. Pizzolato said that it's possible the donations collected from sponsors could cover more than one sign each depending on how the final quote comes in. DeCristofaro said she believes Callicoon already has signs referring to fines for littering around town. You stop seeing them after a while if there are too many. B. Dudko agreed that their message becomes a blur, while V. Dudko said that a scenic byway needs to be conscious of not promoting sign clutter. Pizzolato said that is why he hopes that we as representatives for our

communities should recommend the best placements. They could be placed on the outskirts of a town where you know that littering is prevalent. He asked the representatives to please consider where the sign should go and who owns that property by the next meeting. At that time, we will have more information on actual costs and sponsorships. Pizzolato said all we can do is try to lead by example. DeCristofaro asked who will install these signs? Pizzolato said he is awaiting information and advice on that from Nicole at Find Hand Signs. In the meantime, he said it would be productive to identify the potential sign locations. Eisenberg said that since the anti-littering signage graphics will be digital, she suggests sending those files to the respective communities so they could post them on their websites and we could share them by social media too.

- d) **Promotional Opportunities for May 18-June 30 Sullivan County Litter Pluck** – Hugel said if we did a campaign on social media that others could share, that would help spread the message about the Litter Pluck. Pizzolato said he would like to see people post photos of their litter cleanups, showing what and how much they found. That sort of public recognition might make people think twice about generating that trash. Richardson said it's a great program that Sullivan County offers to provide the clear trash bags and stickers for free disposal at the landfill or transfer stations through June 30. Pizzolato said they have been handing out the bags and stickers at the Barryville Farmers' Market. Felderstein said distributing them at farmers' markets is great and likely to help with participation. Ramie said she has a supply of those materials at the Upper Delaware Council in Narrowsburg available on a first-come, first-served basis as well.
- e) **Process to Update 2002 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Enhancement Concept Plan** – Richardson suggested taking this item off the agenda until we are able to meet in person. This should be kept in mind for when grants become available again. DeCristofaro said it wouldn't hurt to have somebody look at it now to get started. Many components of the 2002 plan haven't changed but some could be updated. Ramie reviewed that we had reached out to the original consultant, Carol Truppi, at the time that UDSB was contemplating applying for National Scenic Byway status and discovered that the plan would have been considered outdated. Although the committee decided against pursuing the designation which relieved any time pressure for the update, Truppi had indicated she would be happy to be involved again. Eisenberg offered to outline a process to approach a plan update by the next meeting. Pizzolato asked Eisenberg to work with Richardson and DeCristofaro on that effort.
- f) **Other** – None

Follow-up Actions and Committee Reports:

- a) **5/3 Walk-Through of Callicoon Train Depot, Environmental Study, Visitor Center Update** – Pizzolato reported that Sullivan County Legislature Chairperson Robert Doherty had been invited to tour the Depot property with Callicoon Business Association President and Depot Committee Chairperson Nicole Vallance, members of that local committee, and him on May 3rd. He said this is an exciting project that offers great event space, lots of inclusion with other organizations, and revenue generating opportunities. Pizzolato said he will be discussing with Vallance what UDSB, Inc. can do next to support the visitor center development. To have a physical location solidifies the byway's relationship to the area at large. Eisenberg reported that the firm Tectonic had accessed the site to conduct a Phase I Environmental Study under Sullivan County's Brownfields contract with them. She expects to receive a report within 1-2 weeks. She's heard that it's not likely to require a Phase II study. This is one of the last pieces needed for the lease negotiations with the railroad company. All of the financial issues from the COVID-19 situation at the state level raised concerns about the status of grants. Regarding the \$250,000 DASNY capital construction grant, Eisenberg said that the state will honor earlier executed grant

awards. Gaining site control is a key element of that grant. There have been more frequent meetings and a sense of urgency to assure that the project moves along. Eisenberg mentioned that another Callicoon project, the acquisition of the former Upper Delaware Campgrounds by The Trust for Public Land for development of a potential county park, a new river access, and relocation of the Town of Delaware's wastewater treatment facility out of a floodplain, is also advancing and that Chairperson Doherty had a scheduled site visit to that property as well.

- b) **Highland River Access Project** – Pizzolato reported about a recent on-site meeting to discuss what must be done to move along the Highland River Access improvements. Heather Jacksy from Sullivan County Planning indicated that \$5,000 is needed to get the approved plans stamped as official. Pizzolato asked whether UDSB, Inc. could assist. In his opinion, this Rt. 97 recreational access provides a great resource but UDSB, Inc. doesn't have a grant program specific to this. Eisenberg explained that before the pandemic hit, the Legislature had approved signing a contract and committed to cover the grant match to implement this project, but then discretionary funding got frozen. The county had won grants through the NYS CFA for design work at several Upper Delaware River accesses including this one and through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Delaware River Watershed Conservation Fund for implementation at this particular location. Richardson said his first thought is that he would be reluctant to commit any serious money to this now after UDSB, Inc. had lost \$5,000 in funding from the county it had planned on for this year's budget. Pizzolato said he understands that and realizes that we need to reserve funds for marketing and the website as well. He proposed writing a letter to the Legislature expressing UDSB support for this project? Eisenberg said she feels that UDSB's advocacy could be helpful. On a **motion** by Richardson, seconded by DeCristofaro, the committee agreed to send a letter of support to the Sullivan County Legislature, with all in favor. Pizzolato said we will ask Jacksy to confirm the amount of funding that is needed for its specific purpose. Richardson asked whether the Town of Highland is behind this, noting that they have also cut funding to UDSB. Pizzolato said that Highland Town Councilwoman Kaitlin Haas participated in the on-site meeting. He will follow up on if and how the town is willing to contribute.
- c) **NYS DOT Report** – 1) Kris Gilbert had provided a written report with the status of capital projects: Guiderail Work (9TDG21) in Towns of Delaware and Cohecton – includes 18 runs of guiderail work with construction anticipated to occur this summer; Tree-cutting Work in Tusten – completed; Cohecton Bridge #6 – Staged construction planned with single-lane alternating traffic with signal, construction anticipated to begin in 2021, bridge deck replacement and structural repairs, possibly using precast deck panels to expedite construction, railing similar to existing, views will be similar; Rt. 97 Slope Stabilization (938949) for guiderail work in the Towns of Fremont and Delaware – construction anticipated in late 2021/2022; Town of Tusten (9LSS21) candidate for Long-Term Restoration Work to Remove Invasive Species – encourage growth of rhododendrons, mountain laurel, and lowbush blueberries with work anticipated in late 2021/2022; Bridge #7 (Callicoon) – deck replacement, pier rehabilitation and painting, staged construction anticipated in 2-3 years, bicycle and pedestrian access will be preserved during construction; Rt. 97 Harsh Winter Paving (9HW041) – planned for John Deck Road to Lordville Road in Delaware County later this year; Sullivan & Delaware County Operations – All residencies are continuing to perform maintenance as necessary while operating with very reduced staff. 2) Regarding slope and guiderail repairs, per her discussion with Representative DeCristofaro, Gilbert reported that she had discovered work is being progressed independently of 9TDG21 and 938949 by Sullivan County Resident Engineer Ed Mall with intent to construct on a faster schedule for two high priority spots.
- d) **5/7 UDC Letter to NYS DOT Region 9: Guide Rail Slope Stabilization Project, Sullivan County** – The meeting packet included a courtesy copy of a letter from the Upper Delaware

Council stating, in part, “The Upper Delaware Council, Inc. (UDC) joins the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. (UDSB) and the Sullivan County Legislature in putting the NYS Department of Transportation on notice regarding the serious safety issues created by the failure of the guiderail system and erosion of pavement along sections of New York State Route 97 observed most egregiously in the Towns of Delaware and Cochecton...The UDC urges NYS DOT to prioritize this project and take additional, interim safety measures.” As Executive Director of the UDC, Ramie noted that the Council wished to add its voice to this issue. She said that she recently drove past two DOT trucks and a crew gathered at one of the locations where the guide rails are missing and the safety barrels had fallen down the slope which indicates there is active progress being made.

- e) **5/27 NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission Annual Meeting** – Pizzolato said he intended to participate in this annual meeting but had a last-minute conflict. Ramie said she attends it every year (this time presented by WebEx) to find out and issue a news release summarizing what the capital plans, maintenance projects, and inspection reports are for the 10 interstate bridges on the Upper Delaware River. A copy of the resulting article, “Commission Will Study Fate of Skinners Falls-Milanville Bridge” was provided in the packet. The three capital projects approved for this fiscal year were \$4.95 million for the rehabilitation of the Cochecton, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge; \$200,000 for an alternatives study for the Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA Bridge; and \$30,000 to analyze re-decking options for the Port Jervis, NY-Matamoras, PA Bridge. Her full report is also posted at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org.
- f) **Darren Boch Named Acting Superintendent of Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River** – Peterec referred the committee to the National Park Service press release announcing a 120-day detail for Darren Boch will start on June 8. Boch currently serves as Superintendent at Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park in New Jersey. Peterec said former Acting Superintendent Jessica Weinman’s 120-day term ended on May 30. Kris Heister will be back in the Upper Delaware this week to clean out her office before she takes the permanent Deputy Superintendent position at Gettysburg National Military Park. Peterec said it will be another learning curve for Upper Delaware staff to have this new person coming in while NPS advertises for Heister’s permanent replacement.
- g) **Other** – 1) Pizzolato thanked everyone for their endurance in continuing to meet by conference call due to the coronavirus pandemic restrictions on gatherings in New York State. He hopes that an in-person meeting will be possible at the end of July. 2) Richardson said that UDSB, Inc. purchased byway logo decals and magnets in 2013. He asked whether any are left. Ramie said yes; they are in a small box in the UDC’s front office as a sales item to benefit UDSB. She will provide an inventory count at the next meeting. Pizzolato said we could perhaps send those out to our municipal members as a gift along with a letter announcing our new board, the projects UDSB, Inc. is working on, and the grant programs that we offer.

Next Meeting Date: 4th Monday, June 22, 2020

Adjourn: On a **motion** by G. Dudko, seconded by Eisenberg, the June 1, 2020 UDSB teleconference meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Laurie Ramie, 6/7/20

Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc.

June 22, 2020 Teleconference Minutes

Attendance:

Voting members:

John Pizzolato, Town of Highland representative, Chairperson
Rosie DeCristofaro, Town of Delaware rep., Vice-Chair
Larry Richardson, Town of Cochection rep., Secretary-Treasurer
Ginny Dudko, Town of Deerpark rep.
Teresa Spradling, City of Port Jervis rep.
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Bill Dudko, Town of Deerpark alt.
Noah Kalina, Town of Lumberland alt.

Non-voting members:

Jennifer Claster, National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River
Carmela Hugel, Sullivan Renaissance
Nicole Vallance, Callicoon Business Association
Laurie Ramie, Upper Delaware Council

Guests:

Steve Franzken, Mid-Hudson Web
John Erik Karkula, CBA Depot Committee
Kate Hawk, CBA Depot Committee
Laura McManus, Hancock Chamber of Commerce
Linda Drollinger, River Reporter

Call to Order: Chairperson Pizzolato called the meeting conducted via conference call to order at 7:04 p.m. Attendance was taken through roll call.

Business Items:

- a.) **Approval of June 1, 2020 Meeting Minutes:** On a **motion** by Richardson, seconded by G. Dudko, the teleconference (rescheduled from May 25) minutes were approved, with all in favor.

b.) **Correspondence Report; Logo Decals Inventory:**

Ramie offered a written report of outgoing and incoming correspondence since the last meeting. Asterisks indicate handouts or potential action items:

Outgoing Correspondence:

1. To UDSB Committee, 6/2: Summary of Action Items from June 1, 2020 UDSB, Inc. Meeting.
2. To Steve Schwartz, Friends of the Upper Delaware River, 6/2: UDSB Committee is interested in learning more about FUDR's grant-funded Japanese Knotweed project and its status.
3. To Town of Highland Councilwoman Kaitlin Haas from Johnny, 6/3: Questioning town contribution toward the Highland River Access \$5,000 needed to get the plans stamped/approved. (Followed up on 6/16; board members requested an updated copy of the budget for the project which was provided by Heather Jacks on 6/16.)
4. To UDSB Distribution List, 6/7: Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. June 1, 2020 Teleconference Meeting Minutes.
5. To Bianca Velez, 6/8: Hard copies of UDSB Japanese Knotweed brochure to visualize.
6. To Johnny Pizzolato, 6/8: Hard copies of UDSB logo magnetic decal and sticker to visualize.
7. To Town of Highland Board, 6/8: Monthly update on the progress of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Committee, by Chairperson and Highland Representative John Pizzolato.

8. * To Chairperson Rob Doherty, Sullivan County Legislature, 6/8: UDSB, Inc. Support for Advancing Highland River Access Improvements. (Drafted 6/8 for review and sent on 6/15).
9. To UDSB Committee, 6/12: Depot Committee of the Callicoon Business Association inquiring whether UDSB has any feedback to offer about specific concerns relative to the inspection being arranged of the Depot property. Reply to Construction Coordinator John Erik Karkula at stonewoodwater@gmail.com. (Larry Richardson responded on 6/12).
10. To UDSB Committee, 6/15: Seeking any agenda item additions by 6/16.
11. * To UDSB Marketing Committee, 6/16: Proposal by Mid-Hudson Web for the UDSB website, forwarded by Johnny. Steve Franzken will give a presentation during the 6/22 teleconference.
12. To UDSB Committee, 6/16: Preliminary agenda for 6/22 UDSB meeting, with call-in information.
13. To UDSB Committee, 6/20: UDSB Japanese Knotweed brochure electronic file and 2011 news releases.

Incoming Correspondence:

1. From Delaware County Chamber of Commerce, weekly: News from Your Chamber online newsletter.
2. From Larry Richardson, 6/1: Contact information for Cochection Preservation Society president for the UDSB Non-Voting Membership list.
3. From Steve Schwartz, 6/2: Update on the Friends of the Upper Delaware River Japanese Knotweed project, with link to a WJFF broadcast on this subject on Rosie Starr's 5/30/20 Farm and Country Show available in the archives.
4. From Heather Jacksy, 6/3: Explanation of the \$5,000 needed for the consultant to finish the plans for the Highland River Access improvements.
5. From Delaware County Chamber of Commerce, 6/8: "Escape to the Catskills: Delaware County, NY 2020-22 Travel Guide" released in digital format only at this time.
6. From Edward Boyer, landscape architect, 6/8: Experience with Japanese Knotweed mitigation as a member of the Friends of the Wissahickon in the 1980s. (Steve Schwartz replied to the forwarded message with his comments on 6/8).
7. From Jeff Bank, 6/8: UDSB, Inc. account statement ending 5/29/20, with end balance of \$33,062.62.
8. From Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association, 6/8: New look to e-newsletter with five main categories: 1. Arts & Culture; 2. Catskill-icious; 3. Explore; 4. Have a Sleepover; 5. Music. Also includes a link to all Facebook events for which the Sullivan Catskills is a co-host (instructions provided). Submit events to Sullivancatskills.com.
9. From Joseph Smith, Smith Excavating (phone call), 6/12: Would like to bid on repair of the Hawk's Nest damaged wall; was told to call the UDC. (Laurie provided NYS DOT Region 8 UDSB Liaison Jason Wolfanger's contact information to him to follow up on state contracting requirements.)
10. From Nicole Vallance, chair of CBA Train Depot Committee, 6/15: For UDSB 6/22 meeting, will have photos and documents regarding Phase I Environmental Study, Preliminary Site Work, and Lease Updates.
11. From Kelly Tragus, Getaways on Display, 6/16: Solicitation for brochure distribution services.
12. From Johnny Pizzolato, 6/18: Please send 6/22 UDSB meeting information to Laura McManus from the Hancock Chamber of Commerce.
13. From Laura McManus, 6/18: Please add Erin Mason from Hancock Chamber of Commerce to UDSB contact list also.
14. * From Nicole Vallance, 6/22: Artist renderings for Callicoon Depot Visitor Center.
15. * From Kris Gilbert, 6/22: NYS DOT Report for June 22 meeting.

To follow up on a question raised at the June 1 meeting, Ramie also provided a handout and a current inventory of the UDSB 4x4" adhesive sticker decals and magnetic decals featuring the byway logo that were ordered in 2013 through a Sullivan County Historic and Cultural Assistance Program grant and manufactured by Color Tek Designs of Glen Spey. The promotional items were offered for a \$3 donation per decal. Of the original order of 1,000 stickers and 125 magnets, there are 72 magnets left and about one-third of a stationery box of stickers remaining. They are maintained at the Upper Delaware Council office and were available through the UDSB website store page. Pizzolato said these could be passed out to supporters.

c.) Treasurer's Financial Report:

Richardson reviewed one transaction reflected on his written report. The current balance is \$32,812.62. There are no outstanding bills. On a **motion** by G. Dudko, seconded by DeCristofaro, the financial report was approved, with all in favor.

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

Ramie reported that no new applications were received. Pizzolato summarized the three grant programs that UDSB, Inc. offers.

e.) **Other Business Items:** None

Public Comment: None

Discussion Items:

- a) **The Delaware Company/Greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce Vista Clearing; Eagle Observation Garden Maintenance, Letter to Delaware Highlands Conservancy** – Conway said she was thrilled to report that she had a beneficial meeting with Ed Mall, the NYS DOT Sullivan County resident engineer, who was very helpful in offering to advance and expedite the work permit needed for viewshed clearing at the Highland Access that is the subject of The Delaware Company’s pending vista enhancement grant application for The Kate Project. She said the only hold-up is getting estimates from contractors since they are all so busy. She has discussed the needs with the Town of Highland Highway Department. One issue that came up was noticing how the pollinator garden by the Eagle Observation Blind has become an overgrown eyesore. The crew had cleared the site down to the river at this very popular access and asked if something could be done with that garden. Conway said the Delaware Highlands Conservancy (DHC) placed that eagle blind and held a fundraiser for naming rights of it which yielded its dedication to Barbara Yeaman. Conway asked whether UDSB, Inc. could reach out to DHC to ask if they could take over the garden’s maintenance? They may not be aware that UDSB, Inc. offers a grant for butterfly habitat promotion. If engaging DHC works well, this could create a future partnership opportunity at this high-profile river access. Hugel said that a 4-H group led by Heather Jacksy had created that garden but she understands that the group is now defunct. Hugel said that Sullivan Renaissance offers Garden Maintenance Grants for projects like this. G. Dudko said maybe a club or science class from Eldred or the Homestead Schools would be interested in taking over the garden. Conway said that’s a good suggestion but with the schools closed, that would be difficult to arrange. Hugel said she proposes contacting Jacksy first to see if the 4-H group has any members remaining that are willing to revive the garden. Conway said Jacksy may have a link to DHC as well. Eisenberg said she would speak to Jacksy about this tomorrow. On a **motion** by Richardson, seconded by G. Dudko, the committee approved sending a letter to the Delaware Highlands Conservancy ascertaining their interest in committing to long-term maintenance of the pollinator garden at the Highland Access Eagle Observation Blind and informing them of grant opportunities available through the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. and Sullivan Renaissance, with all in favor. Richardson said he and his wife Peggy would volunteer to help; they had started a pollinator garden for the Cocheton Preservation Society. Hugel said that Sullivan Renaissance has a horticulture crew of three who can also help if it’s a Maintenance Grant project. Conway said she’ll take this news back to the town. Hopefully she can have bids for vista clearing ready to bring to the next meeting. She said improving the overall attractiveness of that site will help appeal to potential donors for The Kate Project. Pizzolato said this is a good partnership project involving numerous entities. Conway said she had to leave the call but said that she is excited about the current energetic initiatives of the byway committee.
- b) **Presentation on Website Proposal** – Pizzolato introduced Steve Franzken from Mid-Hudson Web who joined the call. Pizzolato said that Roberta Byron-Lockwood had recommended this company since they are revitalizing the Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association website and we need some of that same functionality they have. Franzken thanked the group for the opportunity to explain his written proposal included in the meeting handouts. He said that Mid-Hudson Web offers a unique design that allows them to introduce branding and lay out a new business model from the inception. The responsive framework will be compatible with all devices. They offer e-commerce integration with auto-renewal of memberships possible. After the custom design, they

will utilize the WordPress Content Management System. They will set up optimization and indexing. His company takes care of hosting the website as well. Pizzolato noted that Nancy Furdock, who is moving out of the area, wants to move the website off her servers and said she could not recommend the company that built the current version of the website which had been hacked numerous times. Pizzolato said we now have reports of people being unable to access the site due to security issues, outdated information, and an inability to make changes to it. The Marketing Committee has identified cleaning up the site as the highest priority to getting ready for our close-up. Richardson asked if there is a monthly fee for maintenance and could volunteers be trained to maintain and update the site? Franzken said his price of \$3,500 is a one-time fee for the deliverables reflected in his quote which includes design, hosting, basic Search Engine Optimization (SEO) set-up, and training. He has a \$30/hour billable rate for additional services but would advise how long anything would take. He would train anyone that UDSB designates to maintain the website via Zoom, and offers services upon request for public relations and marketing. Franzken said he has been in the technology field for 25+ years and makes himself available to clients on weekends or whenever he's needed. Eisenberg asked if Franzken could coach the committee about what type of content to include on the website. Franzken affirmed that he would function as the webmaster. The first step is to build the site after discussing what type of traffic and usage is desired. He can absolutely provide guidance. Spradling asked if there will be an interactive map? Franzken said that hadn't been discussed yet but it would be his job to find out what the client wants and he does have that ability. He created an interactive map for SCVA's Woodstock doves trail, for example. Pizzolato asked whether UDSB, Inc. owns the map that is currently featured on the website. Ramie said yes; it was created by an ArcGIS application through a grant. Richardson said clicking on that map does bring up information such as historic sites in various sections of the byway. Pizzolato said that it could offer more control and usability though, particularly on a mobile device. It's currently a Google map plug-in from his observation. Franzken said he understands that UDSB, Inc. would want a unique element to it and foresees they could "do something exciting" with interactivity. Pizzolato thanked Franzken for his time as he left the call, and asked committee members for their reactions to the proposal. Spradling said she believes we should move forward, that it's not a bad price and seems to offer a lot of options. Felderstein said that's what he paid for his website and finds it reasonable. Pizzolato pointed out that \$3,500 is the non-profit rate with the SEO cost that normally costs \$350 thrown into the price and Mid-Hudson Web comes highly recommended. He said we really can't expect a volunteer to take all of this on, and this proposal could bring us back to basic security, a new host, assistance with content, and guidance on how to make the site dynamic. It's also helpful that this could interface with the SCVA website. The Marketing Committee has expressed that this time of shutdown should be focused on making preparations for the future. We'd also like to offer full transparency on what we are working on to show our municipalities and others why investing in UDSB, Inc. is worthwhile. He foresees starting a projects tab on the website. The first marketing initiative discussed after getting the website updated is to pursue an Escape Brooklyn campaign. Pizzolato said that Noah Kalina offers fantastic local talent as a photographer to show what the byway has to offer. He foresees we can take the same approach to that campaign as was done for the 1010 WINS commercials in seeking sponsors to raise funds for it. That would be a nice springboard to get people engaged in visiting the byway when things reopen. On a **motion** by Spradling, seconded by Eisenberg, the committee approved accepting the \$3,500 website proposal by Mid-Hudson Web, with all in favor. Pizzolato said he will reach out to the Marketing Committee to set up a meeting with Franzken to get the process started. The proposal references a 4-week timeline. Richardson asked for Pizzolato to provide him with the details on making the payment which has terms of ½ upon start-up and ½ upon completion.

- c) **Hawk's Nest Criminal Enforcement Assistance Options** – Velez reported that she will send the research she has done on surveillance cameras to Ramie to forward to the committee. Pizzolato said that there has been continued communications with the Deerpark Police Department about this. G. Dudko said that the hanging-out behavior at the Hawk's Nest overlooks has not abated during the pandemic shutdown. Now people have time on their hands with nowhere to go. B. Dudko said people are feeling entitled to be there. The police chief has reiterated his offer to meet with this committee when we resume in-person meetings. G. Dudko said perhaps that can be next month. Pizzolato said that would be wonderful and could be really effective.

- d) **Process to Update 2002 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Enhancement Concept Plan** – Richardson said he hasn't reached out to the consultant Carol Truppi yet. Eisenberg said it would be helpful for us to have more focused internal discussions first. The original corridor management plan was done for \$150,000 to produce a 241-page printed document that is not currently web-based or interactive. We don't have those kinds of resources available. We should integrate with our marketing program and determine what is the purpose of this plan. Who is our audience and how will it be used? This plan offered a vision for its 2002 nomination into the state system but it doesn't tightly correlate with how the byway has evolved. What is our unique role? What do we offer, such as the grant programs that aren't communicated there? Having an updated plan will help us to develop more partnerships and provide a platform for fundraising. If we are going to be a membership organization, we need to have our "elevator pitch" ready. How are we structured? What committees do we have? You can be big on ambitions but wind up with a wish list that doesn't match the organization's operational capacity. We need to have a conversation. How has the current plan been beneficial, where has it fallen short, and what needs to be updated? Who are our stakeholders? Who are the collaborators? The members need to go back to their communities to find out how they feel the byway can grow or what they feel is needed, and also engage the public. From a practical standpoint, she suggests starting with a facilitated workshop. Pizzolato says he sees a cross-over with the website development, basically finding a more modern way to tell our story. He asked Ramie to send out a link to the Enhancement Concept Plan so everyone can start reviewing it. Richardson said Eisenberg has expressed some great ideas. He said when people read through the plan, they will find that much of it does not need to change, such as the history and the reasons why the byway was designated. It's not as overwhelming as it may seem to be. He thinks we will need to arrange a special meeting to devote to this subject after everyone has had a chance to read it. Pizzolato said he loves the idea of setting up a workshop. Maintaining the history is vital and we should also start identifying areas to update.

- e) **Other** – None

Follow-up Actions and Committee Reports:

- a) **Callicoon Train Depot and Visitor Center Project Update** – Vallance, who is president of the Callicoon Business Association (CBA) and chairperson/project manager of the Depot Committee, reported that they received the 318-page Phase I Environmental Impact Study last week that Central New York Railroad had required before signing the property lease with the CBA. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) now needs to comment on the draft that Sullivan County's engineering firm produced. The study does recommend conducting a Phase II study since it found evidence of spills, which Vallance said is not unexpected since it was an active railroad yard for 140 years. They are requesting funding from the Sullivan County Brownfields Program to line up the Phase II study simultaneously with reviewing Phase I. The Phase II study would provide guidance on any mitigation that may need to be addressed to avoid conflicting with the proposed new use of the property, such as not digging in certain areas. Vallance said this

is not considered problematic. Eisenberg explained that the railroad needs to establish a threshold of existing conditions for liability purposes. She said there is an example of a former depot further up this line that has been successfully converted into a community center. Eisenberg also reported that the Sullivan County Legislature's new chairman, Legislator Rob Doherty, has said that the new county attorney is willing to consider assisting with the lease negotiations if needed. Pizzolato said this Legislature is aware that the Delaware River and the Scenic Byway attract people here, and there is a lot of synergy around Callicoon as a rivershed community and this positive project right now. He said there is also talk of SUNY Sullivan starting up a hospitality school that could integrate with the Callicoon Depot programming. Vallance asked fellow Depot Committee members Kate Hawk and John Erik Karkula to provide updates. Hawk said that her focus has been on managing grants and looking at the organizational set-up issues. The committee has been working to make this happen for almost four years. Securing the lease has been the hold-up but they have come a long way thanks to the professional experience of the committee which includes people with planning, architectural, fundraising, and construction expertise. The timing of the pandemic has been unfortunate to do a lot of outreach but they are using this time to be ready to hit the ground running as soon as the lease is signed. In addition to the \$250,000 capital construction grant from the State, they received a \$100,000 grant from the USDA for equipment and furnishings. She introduced Karkula as the construction coordinator. Karkula said they are using this time to advance the design and construction phase. He has been giving tours to architects and other professionals. They are currently weighing proposals from engineers to evaluate site conditions and to conduct a parking study. They are reaffirming information about the property survey. A building inspector will be there on July 1st to examine the mechanicals etc. and provide a report. In order to figure out operational overhead costs, they are speaking to the town assessor about the taxes for the smaller portion of the 124-acre property they will be using. They also secured a list of URLs for the project's future website having to do with Callicoon Depot, UDSB Visitor Center, and various derivations of those names. That will all be part of the branding. Vallance said that the parking study Karkula mentioned will encompass the entire hamlet of Callicoon including the Depot site since the community's popularity has made parking a challenge. Karkula, who is also the Beautification Committee chair for CBA, explained the Town of Delaware was fortunate enough to win Sullivan Renaissance's Silver Feather Award last year and the town has dedicated the \$75,000 prize to the Depot effort, which will include this parking study. Town officials are currently reviewing the quotes received for it. B. Dudko said he would like to see the Callicoon Depot include the history of the Erie Railroad in its branding. Pizzolato recommended speaking with Sullivan County Historian John Conway about that. Karkula asked if anyone has recommendations for companies that can offer design/build services or construction alone for the depot renovation, please send those contacts to him at beauty.callicoon@gmail.com.

- b) **NYS Department of Transportation Report** – UDSB Liaison Kris Gilbert had provided a written report, while advising Ramie there had been no changes since June 1.
- c) **Anti-Littering Community Signage Update** – Pizzolato said that signage designer Eve Fisher had suggested piggybacking the anti-littering message panel onto the existing UDSB identification signage to save on costs and avoid installing additional posts along the highway. He will request that she offer a visual representation to share with the committee.
- d) **Highland River Access Improvements Project Update** – A copy of the UDSB 6/8 letter to Sullivan County Legislature Chairperson Rob Doherty encouraging the county to support a final step necessary to implement the grant-funded construction phase of improvements at the Highland River Access two miles north of Barryville was included in the packets. There is a \$5,000 expense remaining for the consultant retained by the Sullivan County Division of

Planning to complete the plans and specifications. Cost-shares are being sought with the Town of Highland and the Greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce to offset that amount. Asked if there had been any response from the county yet, Ramie said no while adding that the letter was written on the 8th but actually sent on the 15th after undergoing review. Pizzolato reported that the Highland Town Board is reviewing this request also and had asked Heather Jacksy to provide them with an overall project budget. GBCC plans to contribute to help get it in motion. Pizzolato said enacting these improvements will provide a really great example of how wonderful and functional a river access can be along the byway.

- e) **UDSB Japanese Knotweed Brochure and Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR) Study** – Ramie reported that she had circulated an electronic version of the UDSB brochure, “Spread the Word, Not the Weed” along with hard copies to Velez for her research project, as well as information from FUDR grant project coordinator Steve Schwartz on their scope of work. Schwartz has offered to present a program at a future UDSB, Inc. meeting on their Japanese Knotweed study which will include mitigation demonstration plots at the Skinners Falls River Access. The meeting packet also had copies of a 6/17 news release from the Upper Delaware Council describing the three UDSB brochures that remain available for distribution, specifically the “Meet Us on the Byway” travelogue, the Monarch Butterfly Flyway on the Byway, and the Japanese Knotweed pamphlets.
- f) **Other** – An additional handout was an annually updated report compiled by the Upper Delaware Council entitled “Economic Impacts of Tourism Statistics” which includes data from the 2014 Estimate of Tourism Visitation to the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Study conducted by Fairweather Consulting.

Next Meeting Date: 4th Monday, July 27, 2020. Pizzolato said since the NYS as of 6/23 would be entering Phase 3 reopening which allows gatherings of up to 25 people increased from 10, the UDSB, Committee should be able to meet in person at the Upper Delaware Council office in Narrowsburg. The advance agenda will confirm that.

Adjourn: On a **motion** by G. Dudko, seconded by DeCristofaro, the June 22, 2020 UDSB teleconference meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Laurie Ramie, 6/28/20