

D&H Transportation Heritage Council
January 25, 2017 Quarterly Meeting Minutes
Town of Deerpark 1863 Schoolhouse Museum, Huguenot, NY

Attendance at business meeting:

Cliff Robinson, Jr. (chair), Delaware & Hudson Canal and Gravity Railroad Conservancy
Bill Merchant (vice-chair), D&H Canal Historical Society and Museum
Jane Varcoe (treasurer), Waymart Area Historical Society
Laurie Ramie (secretary), Upper Delaware Council
Sally Talaga, Wayne County Historical Society volunteer
William Clark, Matamoras-Westfall Historical Society
S. Robert Powell, Carbondale Historical Society
George J. Fluhr, Pike County, PA Historian
Lynn Burns, Town of Deerpark, NY Historian
Kathy Land, Waymart Area Historical Society
Ingrid Peterec, National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River
Kerron Barnes, Town of Mamakating Interagency Coordinator
David Hulse, Sullivan County D&H Canal Linear Park in Summitville 2016 representative
Myra Snook, Morris Canal, New Jersey Canal Society member
Connie Carlsen, Deerpark Museum member

*Note to minutes: Action items are in **bold**.*

Call to Order: Chairperson Robinson called the business meeting held at the 1863 Schoolhouse Museum in Huguenot to order at 1:03 p.m. following an optional morning program with local folk artist Peter Koenig (see www.vintagesignstudio.com) and lunch at Family and Friends Restaurant.

Acceptance of October 26, 2016 Minutes: Talaga offered the following correction: “The total cost of the porch restoration of WCHS Lock 31 house was \$66,000. This included the required monitoring by an archeologist during two days of excavation for the footers. The cost would have been higher if Canal Park volunteers did not do all the painting and site cleanup.” On a **motion** by Merchant, seconded by Varcoe, the minutes were approved with that amendment noted.

Treasurer’s Report and Membership Update: Varcoe reported that there are outstanding payments for the purchase of DVDs which occurred at the last meeting. She would appreciate **any organizations that took DVDs to check their records to see whether they paid the \$7 wholesale rate per copy and to forward their payments** otherwise. She reviewed her written report showing current balances of \$310.08 in the checking account and \$4,471.00 in the savings account, for total DHTHC assets of \$4,871.08. She asked everyone to carefully review her itemization of the payments made toward the acquisition of digitizing rights for the D&H Canal Maps from Canadian Pacific Railroad. No changes were offered to that \$2,400 total. Varcoe said that she had just been handed numerous 2017 dues payments and would need to review those to add them to the membership list to supplement her preliminary roster. On a **motion** by Powell, seconded by Merchant, the Treasurer’s Report was accepted, with all in favor.

New Business:

- a) **2017 Membership Campaign** – Robinson asked Varcoe to provide webmaster Mike Harellick with the new membership list when it develops to update that section of the www.dhthc.org website. **Annual dues, which are requested in January, are \$40 for full voting members, \$20 for affiliated and individual members.** Varcoe later noted

that she calculated 8 full members and 5 affiliate members based on dues provided that day. Hulse and Ramie reported that Sullivan County is restructuring its Division of Public Works, with interviews taking place for a new Parks Director who will presumably take over representation of the county at these meetings. Former Director of Parks, Recreation and Beautification Kristin Porter will be focusing on architecture projects for the DPW. Varcoe said it would be helpful to have a DHTHC membership list that includes everybody's mailing addresses and phone numbers in addition to email addresses. Ramie said that information should be included on the membership forms that Varcoe is collecting and could be compiled into a directory.

- b) **Supply Status and Publicity for DVD Chapter 1: Gravity Railroad to Honesdale** – Talaga reported that DHTHC has 15 left of their original order of 100 copies after Hulse took five on behalf of Sullivan County that day with a request to be billed. She noted that outlets such as the Wayne County Historical Society have been selling them for \$10. Robinson said we may need to **order more before the next quarterly meeting in April. He will check with Bill Bollinger to see whether there is a minimum order required.** Asked about planning for a DVD release party to drum up publicity, Talaga said she came up with the alternative idea of identifying the local groups and entities in the geographical area covered by each DVD segment and asking them for funding support. In the case of the pending Chapter 2: Honesdale to the Delaware River, Talaga said she **identified seven entities who could cover the \$2,000 production cost if they each contributed \$286.** They include Wayne County, the Wayne County Historical Society, Dorflinger Glass Museum, Dorflinger Factory Museum, Pike County, and Pike County Historical Society, and the National Park Service. She has secured several pledges and one cash payment from an anonymous donor to date, with some back-up funding sources in mind. **She hopes to collect on all pledges before the April meeting.** Talaga and Powell said they had not been able to come up with an appropriate venue to hold a launch party for the Gravity Railroad Chapter 1 DVD, which would be a lot of work to organize. Talaga said she feels pursuing the pledges is more worthwhile and direct. Robinson said that the Council could always consider holding a launch party after more than one video segment is available to promote and there are a sufficient number of copies to sell. The objective is to attract attention. Powell wondered if future segments will cost less to produce since they have experience now in knowing what's involved for the legwork. He said they could be "leaner and meaner", and take up less of videographer Bill Bollinger's time by being organized and prepared. Robinson said he believes that Bollinger is already offering a discounted rate compared to typical costs for this type of work but he would ask. Hulse said it would be a good idea if **Bollinger could put together a short teaser of the DVD to build interest.** He suggested holding a press conference or issuing a news release as well. Robinson said he has asked Bollinger to develop a highlights video. He asked if Ramie could **draft a news release to publicize the DVDs.**
- c) **Status of Filming for DVD Chapter 2: Honesdale to Delaware River** – Powell said we should not worry about having all of the cash on hand to move forward with filming of the next DVD. Bollinger & Rutter has already received a \$500 deposit to start the effort. Powell urged proceeding with production while the vegetation is down to get better shots along the canal route. Robinson said he had spoken with Bollinger that morning and it is prime production season since more of the towpath can be seen now. Having already visited the Wayne County Museum to shoot still footage, Bollinger believes he needs one more day for outside filming, then another day to do interviews of the key players for this segment which provide the narrative thread for the overall video. Robinson asked to coordinate that now. Peterec said that the National Park Service's role would be handled by Susie Kaspar, who has been hired for a permanent Interpretation position at Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. Her work days are Wednesday, Thursday, and

Friday. Robinson proposed setting **Wednesday, March 1, with a bad weather date of March 8, starting at the Wayne County Museum in Honesdale at 9 a.m. This will be for the outdoor shots** to include Honesdale, Hawley, White Mills, and Lackawaxen. All parties agreed. The narratives for Chapter 2 will be provided by Robinson, Talaga, Fluhr, Kaspar, and Dr. Walter Barbe.

- d) **Access to Digitize the ExpoRail Archival D&H Maps** – Barnes displayed a copy of Plate #1 of the 1865 revision of the historic D&H maps. This is one of an 82-page book. Fluhr said it would be appropriate to include shots of these maps in the DVD footage. Robinson said he could provide photos of various map pages to Bollinger. Barnes said that the Canadian Pacific Railroad archives contain 50 boxes and several map books related to the D&H. They want \$40 per page, or approximately \$30 with the exchange rate, to electronically photograph them. The problem has been that he has to keep starting the request over because they are now up to the 4th archivist for this project. He submitted an Access Request which explains that the use of the maps will be for research purposes only and not commercial sale. DHTHC would control the use and protect the rights of the material. That document is now being reviewed. Another consideration is the Intellectual Property law of Canada, although Barnes suspects that these books may be in the public domain because they are over 100 years old. Robinson quickly researched that law for Canada and found that the key timeframe for public domain when the author is identified is 75 years from the creation of the work or 50 years from the death of the author. Barnes said it is good news that DHTHC has collected \$2,400 to cover the digital photography but further patience will be required to **secure the permission for access to the maps.**
- e) **Dedicated Host Switch and Officer E-mail Contacts through www.dhthc.org** – Ramie reported the Mike Harellick at Hillside Application Services had transferred the website to a new host in mid-November. She reviewed the costs that will be incurred for the domain name plus email services through the hosting site. Varcoe used her credit card for the payment. Ramie said this clears up problems that the old website had in reverting to older versions because it now has a dedicated host without having to be forwarded from another website. Harellick also set up mailboxes for each officer on the Contact Us page to go through the website, such as secretary@dhthc.org. Any messages through those are automatically forwarded to each officer's email address of record. Merchant reminded everyone that they are welcome to **send him their events and photos to post on the Facebook page** (<https://www.facebook.com/DHTHC>) or to add postings themselves to keep the content fresh. Robinson said that when the DVD highlights reel is available, every organization should put a link to it on their individual websites and DHTHC, as well as social media.

Old Business:

- a) **Publication and Posting of a Directory of Current D&H Public Hiking Areas** – Robinson deferred this item pending further action.
- b) **DHTHC Brochure Update** – The supply of brochures is dwindling and the group is interested in designing a new cover page to be more eye-catching, Robinson said. The last brochure was done through an on-line printing service arranged by Merchant utilizing a PDF. He asked who has the original computer file which could be manipulated easier. **Burns said that she believes Norma Schadt worked on the original design and she would ask her for the file**, although Schadt is currently in Florida. **Merchant and Hulse volunteered to work collaboratively on the brochure's redesign.**
- c) **Other** – Talaga suggested that a goal for DHTHC meetings in 2017 should be for Council members to only talk about topics related to the D&H Canal Company under Member Accomplishments, Concerns and Upcoming Events. All agreed with that goal.

Announcements of Member Accomplishments, Concerns, and Upcoming Events:

Jane Varcoe – Passed out three copies of the Basha Kill Area Association’s “Guardian” newsletter for Winter 2016-17, highlighting the article on page 15, “Mamakating Gains New Trail Segment”

S. Robert Powell – Brought copies of his latest 5-set book on DVDs, along with flyers and brochures. The series can be purchased on-line, as can advance research requests for the Carbondale Historical Society which he finds to be a very efficient system ensuring payment.

Sally Talaga – Our canal “boat” pavilion project officially starts tomorrow, when we will meet with Woodland Designs in Honesdale to determine the scope of work possible with the \$75,000 we received, since the third grant (PA DCNR) was not received. The level of historically accurate detail will depend on how far the \$75,000 goes and the amount of labor and materials donated. This may seem like a large amount, but the project also includes construction of an ADA ramp into the canal bed to access the “boat”, reusing stones from the post canal stone outbuilding nearby. It is hoped the project will be bid out and construction will begin this spring. The 4th Annual Canal Festival will be Saturday, August 19, 10-4. NPS UDS&RR, and writers Cliff Robinson and Robert Powell will participate. Any D&H Canal related or environmental non-profit is welcome to set up an info booth, with no charge. We expect over 800 people will attend this year.

George Fluhr – Handed out copies of a Nov. 24, 1870 article from The Wayne County Citizen titled “The Delaware and Hudson”.

Kathy Land – The Waymart Area Historical Society held a Halloween event at the Depot Museum that was very successful.

Kerron Barnes – The Town of Mamakating will open a new Environmental and Educational Interpretive Center at a property it acquired at 762 South Road in Wurtsboro at the end of May. It will be used as a regional center for historical and environmental education and nature interpretation, with proximity to the state-owned Bashakill Wildlife Management Area and the former O&W Railroad track bed. It will serve as a venue where educational activities, conferences, ecological and historical organization meetings can be hosted, with office space provided. Books, periodicals, pamphlets, maps, and displays will be made available. Barnes offered this new Mamakating Preserve as a potential location for the July quarterly meeting of the DHTHC.

Bill Merchant – Has been doing at least one presentation per month. He is still working on putting the Russell Lord journals in order and then will provide these newly-acquired documents to anyone interested. He shared this program announcement from the Hudson River Maritime Museum in Kingston:
Wednesday, May 31 - "Engineer Russell F. Lord's Journal, 1848-52, the final enlargement of the D&H Canal" by Bill Merchant of the D&H Canal Museum. Join us the following Saturday for a car tour of the D&H Canal.

Laurie Ramie – Thanked Lynn Burns for arranging the morning program with folk artist and vintage sign painter Peter Koenig which was very interesting and for hosting today’s meeting; passed around copies of a news clip from the 1/5/17 River Reporter: “D&H Canal Park gets funds for boat replica”; and provided details of two repeat programs on June 11 and Aug. 5 sponsored by the Basha Kill Area Association for “History of the D&H Canal” walking programs with Gary Keeton. Both start at 10 a.m. at the DEC access road on Route 209 across from the Hometown Deli in Westbrookville. Contact Gary at (845) 386-4892.

Lynn Burns – Distributed copies of the “Deerpark Diary” December 2016 newsletter and said she was thrilled by the turnout today.

Ingrid Peterec – The National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River’s D&H Canal Days will take place from 9 a.m. to noon on May 5, 9, 10, 11, and 12. Four mini-programs are offered by costumed presenters for students to cycle through on both sides of Roebling’s Delaware Aqueduct. There is grant funding to bus students from 10 school districts. Visitors are welcome. NPS is working on developing

its social media outreach. They'd love to receive historic, canal-related photos in the river valley to post on Throwback Thursdays. They are doing some tree-cutting at the Roebling Bridge to improve visibility. The Zane Grey Festival is scheduled for Saturday, July 15. All are invited to participate as exhibitors or guests. Peterec noted that 2018 is an anniversary for the D&H Canal (190 years since its founding or 120 years since its closing) that this group may wish to commemorate.

Myra Snook – Warren County, NJ has been having difficulty obtaining grants so they formed a small, non-governmental group to try to find funds to support its historic projects. One of those is to restore part of the damaged turbine chamber at the incline plane. Finding volunteers is a challenge as well.

Dave Hulse – Has not been officially reappointed yet by Sullivan County to run the Summitville Museum but hopes that a new Parks Director will be named soon.

Bill Clark – Former Minisink Valley Historical Society Executive Director Peter Osborne will give a lecture on the Pennsylvania Railroad Museum at the Matamoras-Westfall Historical Society in Westfall on Sunday, April 9, at 2 p.m. which is open to the public. Osborne has moved to Red Cloud, Nebraska.

Next Council Meeting: The quarterly meeting will take place on Wednesday, **April 26**, 2017 hosted by the Carbondale Historical Society at City Hall, 1 North Main St., Carbondale, PA. An agenda detailing the itinerary will be circulated in early April.

Adjourn: The January 25, 2017 DHTHC meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m. on a **motion** by Merchant, seconded by Ramie.

Minutes submitted by Laurie Ramie, 1/27/17