

D&H Transportation Heritage Council

April 26, 2017 Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Carbondale Historical Society, Carbondale, PA

Attendance at business meeting:

Cliff Robinson, Jr. (chair), Delaware & Hudson Canal and Gravity Railroad Conservancy

Jane Varcoe (treasurer), Waymart Area Historical Society

Laurie Ramie (secretary), Upper Delaware Council

S. Robert Powell, Carbondale Historical Society

Lynn Burns, Town of Deerpark, NY Historian

William Clark, Matamoras-Westfall Historical Society

Kathy Land, Waymart Area Historical Society

Lauren Hauptman, National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River

David Hulse, Sullivan County D&H Canal Linear Park in Summitville 2016 representative

Rolf Moeller, Wallenpaupack Historical Society, Shohola Historical and Railroad Society

Note to minutes: Action items are in bold.

Call to Order: Chairperson Robinson called the business meeting held at the Carbondale Historical Society to order at 1:18 p.m. following an optional morning tour of exhibits and lunch at Plate d'azur restaurant.

Acceptance of January 25, 2017 Minutes: On a **motion** by Powell, seconded by Burns, the minutes of the last quarterly meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report and Membership Update: Varcoe reviewed her written report, including a balance of \$6,715.51 in the checking account, which she said is now the sole account. There are currently 10 full voting members and six affiliate members. She also handed out a breakdown of all deposits from July 2016 to April 25, 2017 to itemize the purchase of the D&H Chapter One DVDs, payment of membership fees, donations to the map digitization project, and donations toward the next DVD production. Hulse said that a membership payment from Sullivan County should be pending. Varcoe said there was enough money collected to pay for DVD Chapter 2 and to provide a start for Chapter 3. Powell thanked Varcoe for providing clarity to who has paid or owes for which projects. On a **motion** by Powell, seconded by Moeller, the Treasurer's Report was accepted, with all in favor.

New Business:

- a) **Introduce Sullivan County Director of Parks, Recreation and Beautification Brian Scardefield** – Hulse noted that Kristin Porter who formerly held this position is still with the Sullivan County Department of Public Works but will be using her architecture degree more with her new assignment. Scardefield had hoped to attend today but had a meeting conflict. Ramie included an article from the *Sullivan County Democrat* announcing his March 13 appointment and said Scardefield had called to say that he intends to get involved with the Council.
- b) **Call-in Report from Kerron Barnes** – After multiple attempts throughout the meeting, the committee was unable to reach Barnes by telephone.
- c) **Supply Status and Teaser Status of DVD Chapter 1: Gravity Railroad to Honesdale** – Robinson said that **Bill Bollinger is working on compiling a "teaser" video**. Ramie reported that Sally Talaga had passed along to her the remaining inventory of 15 DVDs, which became 13 after Moeller purchased two.

- d) **Production Update and Release of DVD Chapter 2: Honesdale to Delaware River** – Robinson reported that they filmed in March in the middle of a snowstorm at locations in Honesdale, Hawley, The Narrows, the Locks, and Lackawaxen. **Next will come recording the narratives portion, which must be arranged as a group.** That will include Robinson, Ab Rutherford, Sally Talaga, George Fluhr, and Ingrid Peterec or Susie Kaspar. Having the raw footage now means that the majority of the work is done.
- e) **News Release to Publicize both DVDs, Announcing Contributors for Chapter 2** – Ramie reported that she feels we need a larger supply of Chapter 1 on hand and to have Chapter 2 available in order to publicize them. Robinson called Bollinger and determined that the minimum order for a re-print would be 50 and the next quantity would be 100. We had paid \$7 per DVD wholesale and sold them for \$10 retail. **Robinson asked everyone to check their supply of Chapter 1 DVDs and advise Ramie how many they could use so that the Council can place an order.** Ramie said she has a media contact list for the Upper Delaware River Valley area of NY and PA which she would ask other members to supplement with publications beyond that region, such as in Carbondale, High Falls, and Kingston, when ready. Ramie said it's important to give proper credit to those who have contributed to the production, specifically the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau (\$856), Dorflinger Glass Museum-Hank Loftus (\$286), Dorflinger Factory Museum-James Asselstine (\$286), Wayne County Historical Society (\$286), and Anonymous Donor (\$286) = \$2,000 production cost of the DVD paid in February and March, plus Rolf Moeller contributed \$300 in April.
- f) **World Canals Conference, Sept. 24-28, 2017 at the Downtown Marriott, Syracuse, NY** – Ramie reported that the public relations firm behind this event had reached out to the D&H THC to encourage them to help spread the word about the World Canals Conference that will take place relatively nearby in Syracuse on Sept. 24-28. The conference is co-hosted by the New York State Canal Corporation, Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, and Visit Syracuse. See www.wcc2017syracuse.com for more information. Powell said that the D&H has a stronger alliance with the Erie Canal than one might think. It had the same designers and D&H coal was marketed by means of the Erie Canal. **Robinson said he will look into attending and offering D&H information** if he does, while avoiding the apparent \$1,500 booth sponsorship fee.
- g) **Other** – None

Old Business:

- a) **Access to Digitize the ExpoRail Archival D&H Maps** – Kerron Barnes was not available to address this topic.
- b) **DH THC.org Website Additions by Mike Harellick, Hillside Application Services** – Ramie read answers from Harellick to the committee's questions after the last meeting. They included the email contacts for officers through the website and posting of events. Email messages sent to an officer will automatically be forwarded to an email address of record for each officer without being stored on the dhthc.org mail server. The only special case is officers@dhthc.org which would be forwarded to all four officers. There is currently no web page for event listings but they can be posted on the home page. The idea was always to encourage people to visit the websites of Council members for details on their programs. It would also be a lot of work for somebody to gather, update, and remove outdated information. Robinson said we should be using the website more to raise its profile and keep the content fresh. Varcoe commented that **the website could use more photos** that anyone can provide.
- c) **Brochure Cover Update and Postings at <http://www.facebook.com/DH THC>** - Hulse said that he is willing to work on a redesign of the DH THC brochure, particularly to give

it a more attractive cover. He needs the original file. Burns said that Norma Schadt had already provided what she has but could send it again and requested his email address.

- d) **Publication and Posting of a Directory of Current D&H Public Hiking Areas** – Robinson said much is publicly accessible already but we do need more details on the Ulster County section. With a little bit of effort, we could open up many more miles for hiking. It would be great to have that information posted on the DHTHC website.
- e) **Other** – Varcoe announced that the Wayne/Pike Local History Roundtable is receiving an award for its Local History Past-Port project from the PA Route 6 Alliance at its May 18 annual dinner in Tunkhannock. The booklet contains many listings associated with the Council's membership.

Announcements of Member Accomplishments, Concerns, and Upcoming Events:

Jane Varcoe – The Waymart Area Historical Association will reopen in two weeks. She handed out a flyer from the Rail-Trail Council of NEPA on the Starrucca Viaduct which includes a timeline and photos with mentions of the railroad that the D&H company used to ship coal. Ramie added that Central New York Railroad recently received \$200,000 in funding to rehabilitate this Viaduct.

Lynn Burns – Burns distributed copies of the “Deerpark Diary” March 2017 newsletter. Upcoming programs include May 21, Frank Salvati on “How George Washington Started the First World War”, 3 p.m. at the Deerpark Museum; and June 11, Delaware Valley Raptors lecture and exhibit, 3 p.m. at The Neversink Valley Grange Building in Huguenot. There will be a Star Party in August. The Sparrowbush Volunteer Fire Department will host the Orange County Firemen's Parade this year in recognition of its 100th anniversary. The Town of Deerpark Museum will hold its open house there on Sept. 15. Burns said that Norma Schadt is finalizing a historic markers brochure for the town that is due in August. Visit www.1863schoolhouse.org for more information on museum programs.

Bill Clark – The Matamoras-Westfall Historical Society had two great lectures recently. Frank Salvati provided the first while Peter Osborne spoke about “Railroads of Our Memory”. He also signed this new book of his which chronicles the history of the PA Railroad Museum in Stroudsburg. The Society did an exhibit for the Evangelical Free Church from 1826 and will next offer a historical exhibit for the High School Alumni Association on June 3 at the Erie Trackage in Port Jervis. The society held a celebratory dinner to mark its 5th anniversary.

S. Robert Powell – A lecture that Powell gave on the PA Gravity Railroad attracted 70 people during the Thomas Kennedy Local History Festival held April 22 at the Dorflinger Factory Museum in White Mills. The audience provided a lot of context and helpful information. Powell said he's looking forward to the Wayne County Historical Society's 100th anniversary symposium coming up at that same location on June 24. Volumes 16-20 of Powell's DVD series on the D&H Canal and Gravity Railroad history will be out in October. He produces the books in this digital format because it would be prohibitively expensive to reproduce the maps and illustrations in traditional printed book form.

Dave Hulse – Sullivan County's Summitville Museum will reopen on Memorial Day weekend. He is working on getting additional highway directional and attraction signage in place to alert people to the presence of the museum building.

Cliff Robinson, Jr. – In Port Jervis, Mayor Kelly Decker is interested in permanently watering a one-mile section of the canal between the West End Bridge and the Trovei property as part of the Whitewater Kayak Park. Trees have been removed and sand is being dug out of the prism. Robinson cautioned him that the rocks are part of the towpath. The City crew is working on it progressively. They may need to consult a hydrologist to prove that there is adequate drainage to a creek so that watering the canal would not cause any flooding, which is a concern that has been expressed by a local business owner. Robinson said that Richard Rose has left the position of Orange County Parks Director. Kate Schmidt is serving as interim director and is very pro-canal. A request has been made to include the D&H Canal in the Orange County budget and consider it part of the county's parks system.

Rolf Moeller – He offered that the Council is always welcome to meet at the PPL Environmental Learning Center in Hawley, PA.

Lauren Hauptman – Hauptman introduced herself as the Museum Technician who has been working for the National Park Service at the Upper Delaware for two years. The Canal Days school programs on-site will start soon and the Zane Grey Festival is set for July 15. Hauptman distributed copies of the D&H Towpath Trail brochure. She hopes to get funding in Fiscal Year 2018 to produce a report on National Register of Historic Places nominations on NPS property. The project will provide Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River with baseline documentation for canal-related resources potentially including, but not limited to: Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct (nationally significant), Corwin Farm Site, Margold House (not likely to be determined historic), and other canal features, some of which are already on the List of Classified Structures, she said. The baseline documentation will be prepared either as a district or under the Multiple Property Form for Historic and Architectural Resources of the Upper Delaware Valley. Robinson said it's a long and involved process for nomination to the Historic Register. The big issue will be determining property ownership since every parcel must be delineated. Hauptman said that the canal property was eligible in 1968 but it's unclear which sections are included. Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct is definitely in but much of the surrounding area is not. Ramie passed along an invitation from Ingrid Peterec that the Council is welcome to meet on July 26 outside the Zane Grey Museum in Lackawaxen under a tent with a morning program to walk the Towpath Trail and inspect the abutments of the Lackawaxen Aqueduct.

Laurie Ramie – Ramie distributed copies of "The Upper Delaware" Spring/Summer 2017 issue. She noted that the Scenic Wild Delaware River Geotourism MapGuide would welcome the development of trip itineraries built around the theme of the D&H Canal. It involves proposing places to stay, things to do, and where to eat along the canal route (and within a 30-mile radius of the Delaware River) with geolocations plotted on a map and approximate costs and timeframes listed. Powell said a popular idea could be to organize a bus tour making 6-8 stops between Honesdale and Kingston then take an express trip back. A charter bus could be rented from a company like Avery out of Beach Lake, PA. The committee discussed ideas for making this a fundraising event in early fall. Clark suggested making it a two-day trip or just going from Honesdale to Port Jervis and back so that the initial travel isn't so far. Robinson said that the D&H DVD could be given to participants as a thank you for registering. **He asked Powell, Bill Merchant, and Norma Schadt to work with him as a subcommittee to develop a D&H bus trip proposal.**

Next Council Meeting: The quarterly meeting will take place on Wednesday, **July 26, 2017** hosted by the Wayne County Historical Society at the Main Museum, 810 Main St., Honesdale, PA. **There will be a 10 a.m. tour of the "History of Wayne County in 100 Objects" Centennial anniversary exhibit guided by WCHS Executive Director Carol Henry Dunn, followed by an optional 11:30 lunch at a nearby restaurant, and the business meeting at 1 p.m. at the museum.** A meeting notice with full details will be issued in advance.

Adjourn: The April 26, 2017 DHTHC meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. on a **motion** by Moeller, seconded by Ramie.

Minutes submitted by Laurie Ramie, 5/16/17