

# **D&H Transportation Heritage Council**

## **February 6, 2019 Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

### **Upper Delaware Council, Narrowsburg, NY**

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  
**Kathy Land**, Waymart Area Historical Society  
**Kerron Barnes**, Town of Mamakating  
**Dave Hulse**, Sullivan County D&H Canal Linear Park, Summitville  
**Ingrid Peterec**, National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River  
**Laine Rubin**, NPS Upper Delaware intern  
**Sally Talaga**, Wayne County Historical Society's D&H Canal Park at Lock 31  
**Lynn Burns**, Town of Deerpark 1863 Schoolhouse Museum  
**William Clark**, Matamoras-Westfall Historical Society  
**Rolf Moeller**, Shohola Railroad & Historical Society & Wallenpaupack Historical Society  
**Myra Snook**, Warren County, NJ Canal Committee  
**Bill Bollinger**, Bollinger & Rutter Video Production and Services  
**Connor Simon**, Blue Ridge Cable Channel 13

Call to Order: Chairperson Robinson called the business meeting held at the Upper Delaware Council office to order at 1:01 p.m.

Additions to the Agenda: Pomeroy Foundation Historic Transportation Canal Marker Grant Program (handout and discussion); National Historic Register Nomination for D&H Canal District Update (report from NPS)

Acceptance of October 24, 2018 Minutes: Secretary Ramie reported that Dr. Jane Lord on Nov. 8 had submitted a clarification to the presentation she had offered at the last meeting. A copy was handed out: "Wet the Canal is called an Awareness Action Group (bring attention to and re-water the canal). We lobby and contact legislators, bureaucrats and influential others. We have presented to the Town of Deerpark. Last administration we arranged 2 meetings with the Parks Dept. and community. We co-sponsored the Honders presentation at NVAM. We currently get feedback and updates from Jim Brooks, the new Park Dept. Commissioner. We have an ongoing Facebook page for news, articles, historical pictures and writings." On a **motion** by Talaga, seconded by Moeller, the minutes of the October 24, 2018 meeting were approved with the supplemental information about Wet the Canal to be included in these minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Varcoe reviewed her written report, which included an accounting of transactions since October 24, 2018. The current balance is \$2,504.47. She **requested the submission of any outstanding dues for 2019** (\$40 full voting members and \$20 affiliate/individual members). A tally will be offered at the next meeting after additional payments are received. Secondly, Varcoe read an email she had received on Feb. 1 from Jill Barbier, a member of the Hemlock Farms Welton Heritage Center in Lords Valley, PA. Barbier wrote, "After a trip to the Roebling Bridge and the surrounding area of the D&H Canal system this past summer, I thought that the members of our community would be interested in knowing about the history of the D&H Canal and Gravity Railroad System. Often people are not aware that artifacts from the past are being actively preserved and that they are available to be viewed very close to home." She asked if a member of DHTHC would be available to talk on this subject

on a Sunday afternoon this spring or summer. Varcoe commented that Hemlock Farms might be able to influence the Pike County Historical Society to get actively involved in the Council again. Robinson asked if Ramie could copy that message to Powell and him for follow-up. [Post-meeting note: S. Robert Powell confirmed arrangements to make a 45-minute presentation to the Hemlock Farms Welton Heritage Center on April 28 at 1:30 p.m.] On a **motion** by Moeller, seconded by Talaga, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

New Business:

- a) **Election of Secretary and Treasurer for Jan. 1, 2019-Dec. 31, 2021 Term** – Robinson asked whether Ramie and Varcoe were willing to continue in their positions, which have no term limits. They had last been nominated on 10/28/15 and elected to serve from 2016-18. Both agreed, with Varcoe stating this will be her last term as treasurer. On a **motion** by Barnes, seconded by Burns, Laurie Ramie was elected as DHTHC secretary. On a **motion** by Moeller, seconded by Hulse, Jane Varcoe was elected as DHTHC treasurer. It was noted on the agenda that elections of the chair and vice-chair are done in odd years, and election of the secretary and treasurer are done in even years as per the bylaws. Chairperson Cliff Robinson, Jr. and Vice-Chairperson Bill Merchant were nominated on 10/25/17 and elected on 1/24/18 to serve from 2018-2020. The chairperson may serve no more than three consecutive terms.
- b) **DHTHC Incorporation as a New York State Non-Profit** – Robinson noted that Barnes had broached this idea over the phone at the last meeting and asked him to elaborate. Barnes said that this Council has a financial and leadership structure in place and does everything that a corporation would do, but lacks a definition of anything except being a membership organization. For less than \$200, the Council could incorporate as a non-profit organization in New York State. He emphasized this is not the same as a federal 501 (c)(3) designation through the IRS. This would be a registration through the Department of State. It would provide an identity for the group and could facilitate seeking grant funds. Barnes said he would volunteer to file the approximately 3-page application and pay the fee. He expects that the Council would qualify as a Type B corporation, which is educational/community service. He said for not much work, this would help the organization to have more of a presence and standing. It requires filing with the Department of State to make sure the name is reserved and getting a Duns & Bradstreet number, which is a digital numeric system. Asked by Moeller if this was a one-time filing and fee, Barnes said yes. Varcoe noted that the D&H includes both New York and Pennsylvania. Barnes said DHTHC could incorporate in PA too if the Council would like. Ramie noted that the Upper Delaware Council is also a bi-state organization. The UDC was legally incorporated in Pennsylvania and has a certificate to do business in New York, where it is headquartered. Robinson said his Delaware & Hudson Canal and Gravity Railroad Conservancy also successfully operates in both states. Talaga said in PA, there is an annual filing with Harrisburg since it expires annually otherwise. Robinson said the filing is in the form of an e-postcard just requiring submission of the name, address and whether there were any significant changes. Burns asked whether the DHTHC address is in NY or PA; Robinson said we don't have one. Robinson questioned whether it is legal for private entities, the federal government, and municipal organizations to be a member of this proposed corporation or could that be a conflict. If this new entity had its own board, bylaws, etc., would the individual groups be ceding authority to a larger umbrella organization? Barnes said they would be joining out of common interests, not to have any new authority. Hulse said he believes that the unifying force of strength in numbers is the goal for the corporation; he can't imagine it would be to tell members what to do. Snook reiterated the question of whether it is legal to have individual organizations become part of a new group. Barnes said we can ask an attorney.

Robinson said if there is an advantage to a corporation seeking grants or support, that's fine. He is just concerned that each group needs to keep its autonomy. The bylaws would need to be written carefully. Barnes said there are some grant opportunities where an applicant is not eligible without being a non-profit. This is not the same as seeking tax-exempt status through the IRS 501(c)(3). Burns asked how DHTHC currently has authority to collect funds. Robinson said the finances go through a member group, the Waymart Area Historical Society, which serves as our fiduciary. Varcoe said that this group doesn't meet the threshold to report its finances. Robinson said the 990N filing has a threshold of \$50,000. He noted that his organization operates under the Education Department. Not having a building or artifacts makes it simpler. He said the Council would need to select an address in New York State. Barnes said we could set up a post office box. Clark asked if the Council intended to seek IRS 501(c)(3) in the future. Barnes said we could look at that down the road; it would be more work than this involves. It also brings additional filing obligations and consequences. Robinson asked if there was a will to move forward with the proposal to **incorporate the DHTHC as a not-for-profit corporation in New York State**. Hearing no dissent, he proposed that **Barnes prepare the application to have the secretary circulate the draft for review before it is filed**. All agreed. Robinson reiterated that we need to be very careful that individual groups maintain their autonomy so that we are not stepping on the toes of the current member organizations. Barnes said this is a \$75 filing fee and the corporation could be dissolved at any time.

- c) **DVD Status** – Bollinger reported that he was not able to secure the 50 copies of DVD Chapter 1 and 100 copies of Chapter 2 as ordered at the last meeting due to the individual's health then machinery problems, but he hopes to get them soon. Talaga offered to accept delivery of the order. She noted that the Wayne County Historical Society is currently out of stock of both DVDs, which Robinson said is good news that they've been that popular. Robinson said he took responsibility that a projected final day of filming for Chapter 3 (Roebing Bridge to Port Jervis) had not occurred yet due to schedules and weather. He would like to coordinate with Sullivan County Historian John Conway and The Delaware Company President Debra Conway to join him for filming in Lumberland. Then Bollinger will edit the piece, which should be ready ahead of the next Council meeting. Bollinger said he will need **help with the end credits for accurate spellings and affiliations**. Narrators for this segment include Cliff Robinson, NPS Ranger Susie Kasper, Port Jervis Mayor Kelly Decker, historian Matt Osterberg, and hopefully John and Debra Conway. **A title for Chapter 3 is also needed**. Ramie agreed to assist. Bollinger said he should have Chapter 3 done by the end of February, then filming can begin for Chapter 4 (Port Jervis to Ulster County).
- d) **Blue Ridge Cable Segment on D&H** – Simon said that he produces short pieces for PA Channel 13's "Wallenpaupack Life" show. He played for the committee a 5-minute promotional video that he had created from the existing DHTHC DVD footage after the project was endorsed at the last meeting. It has been airing every day at various times on the Blue Ridge Cable station during February. After that, it will be posted online for posterity at wallylife.com as well as social media pages such as Facebook, Vimeo, and YouTube. The content of the video will be available to anyone to view or re-post. Robinson thanked Simon for this tremendous publicity for the canal system and DHTHC. The end credit directs viewers to [www.dhthc.org](http://www.dhthc.org).
- e) **Spring D&H Bus Tour Plans: Lackawaxen to Port Jervis**: Robinson summarized the research he had done but said he needs a firm date for the bus trip to get real prices. In 2018, the inaugural bus tour had two outings on April 29 and May 6 with the same route after the first one sold out. After discussing dates, **the group agreed to schedule the bus tour on Saturday, May 4**. Robinson said he proposes to have participants meet at the

- Roebing Bridge, where they can park on both the NY and PA sides (bathroom available at the PA lot). They will walk along the Towpath Trail on the NY side under the bridge to where the bus will be waiting at the first pull-off area on NYS Route 97 in the Town of Highland. The bus will stop at the National Park Service's Corwin Farm Ranger Station in the Town of Lumberland, then on the north side of the Mongaup to see the dry dock. The tour will proceed to Port Jervis for lunch at The Foundry. There will be a visit to the West Main Street Park in the city, then travel back through the Hawk's Nest for an easy walk to visit features on the south side of the Mongaup (Lock 58 and a waste weir foundation). On the way back, DVD Chapters 1-3 could be shown. The ticket price will be based on the lunch and bus rental costs. Talaga noted that the 2018 tour charged \$45 per person. The Council's cost for lunch was \$15 per person, including tax and tip. There should be a gratuity and lunch provided for the bus driver. Smaller coaches from the Garing Bus Co. were used. **Robinson said he will get in touch with the Conways to get details on their bus arrangements for the Magical History Bus Tour with larger coaches and get a price/menu from the restaurant.** Varcoe suggested that we could contact the New York State Police to assist with traffic on Rt. 97 due to the stops along the way. Burns suggested selling DVDs and raffle tickets on the trip to earn some money. **Ramie said she would help Robinson with publicity** once the logistics are nailed down since that will need to be underway in advance of the next DHTHC meeting on April 24.
- f) **Other** – None

Old Business:

- a) **Research into Applicability of FOIL for Requested Uses of Historic D&H Canal Maps** – Barnes said that the County of Sullivan had refused to sign the license agreement with Exporail for the historic canal maps because any individual could submit a Freedom of Information request for copies of the entire document. A copy of the research findings with legal references from 12/6 was provided in the meeting packet. Barnes said the license basically states that if these maps are given away, the company is financially injured. He noted that Canadian Pacific Railway is very possessive of these documents. It's a matter of intellectual copyright. We talked about using two of the map images in the DVD. That would require paying a one-time fee of \$50 each for unlimited use. They might waive that fee for a non-profit. Hulse said that only the D&H Linear Park at Summitville is affected by this decision not to sign the lease, but he already had Robinson's photos of the maps from when he visited Montreal as part of the exhibit there. Nobody has ever asked for a copy of the maps.
- b) **Support Letter for The Delaware Company's D&H Canal Sculpture Project** – A draft support letter had been circulated for advance review based on a sample provided by Debra Conway from The Delaware Company. Barnes questioned the statement that children walked the towpath 15 to 20 miles per day. He thought 10 miles might be more accurate, but others said 15-20 was accurate. Robinson said that the word "boats" should be replaced by "barges". Powell said that the role of the Gravity Railroad has been written out of the letter completely, but he feels the letter as written will serve its purpose for general grant applications. He will provide his suggested changes to Conway separately. Barnes asked why the sculpture would feature a girl, which he doesn't object to but is asking out of curiosity. Talaga said the idea is based on a painting by Henry. On a **motion** by Talaga, seconded by Robinson, the Council agreed to have Robinson **sign the support letter as chairperson and present it to The Delaware Company** for their grant application usage.
- c) **Google Maps Directory of Publicly Accessible D&H Corridor Hikes** – Robinson said this is a project that Bill Merchant has been working on and an update is pending.

- d) **DHTHC.org Website and <https://www.facebook.com/DHTHC> page** – It was asked whether the group can track Facebook and website postings and traffic.
- e) **Other** – 1) Ramie referenced a handout she provided from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation website offering guidelines and relevant dates to apply for the Historic Transportation Canals Marker Program. Grants are available to 501(c)(3) organizations, non-profit academic institutions, and municipalities within the U.S. for historical facts that occurred more than 50 years ago. Application deadlines for Round 1 are: 4/17/19, deadline to submit Letter of Intent; 5/15/19, application due; 6/30/19, awards granted. A second round has respective dates of 10/18, 11/15, and 12/31/19. The website explains the on-line application procedure and required documentation. Grants cover the entire cost of a marker, pole, and shipping. The grant recipient is responsible for the installation of the marker. Ramie pointed out that the photo used on the website is from the D&H Canal, specifically from the Town of Highland. This was the first successful application to be granted, as submitted by Debra Conway. Ramie displayed a color copy of the actual marker in its storage box that Conway had sent. She also wrote, “Highland is in receipt of its D&H Canal marker, the first of its kind from the Pomeroy Foundation. (They featured it on their Facebook page announcing the new Canal Marker program open to applicants across the country.) Pomeroy folks expressed an interest in attending any unveiling ceremony we might have planned, which we don’t yet. But it might be good for Cliff or some of the other members to attend so DHTHC can be included in any publicity, plus help acquaint Pomeroy with other potential applications and locations. The town won’t erect it until Spring, so maybe we hold the next DHTHC meeting around such an event, if there is any interest among the group? The Delaware Company could probably pay for lunch for any of the Pomeroy reps. The group can brainstorm possibilities.” **Council members agreed that holding the April 24 meeting in conjunction with the unveiling of the Historic Transportation Canals Marker in the Barryville area was a great idea.** They asked Ramie to **reach out to Conway to find out where the marker will be installed and to work with The Delaware Company on the logistical plans for a ceremony and Council meeting.** Burns said that she wants to apply for this grant. The Town of Deerpark has 18 miles of canal. How do they prove that, she asked, and where would be a good location to install it? Robinson said that it could be verified through property deeds that Orange County has. Peterec asked whether we have an inventory of where all the markers along the D&H Canal are located. Burns handed her a brochure that the Town of Deerpark produced of all its historic markers, and Ramie said that the Town of Lumberland had originated that brochure project for its markers through a UDC Technical Assistance Grant. Peterec said there is a lot we could do to promote all of them in NY and PA. Talaga said that Pennsylvania state markers cost around \$2,000. Barnes said that the Canadian Pacific Railroad map collection proves that the canal was there as of 1854. The Town of Mamakating received Pomeroy Foundation grants for two canal markers to be located at 72 Sullivan St. and across the street from it in Wurtsboro. He also displayed a historic photo which referenced a house dated 1833 that had been circulated in advance with a request for authentication assistance. Talaga said it appeared to her that the building had two sections, an original and an addition, based on her examination of the windows. She suggested that Barnes consult Peter Osborne.

2) Peterec provided the following update on behalf of National Park Service Upper Delaware Cultural Resources Program Manager Lauren Hauptman: “**The NPS has contracted AECOM to write/update a National Register Nomination for a D&H Canal District within the Upper Delaware Corridor.** The boundaries of the nomination have not yet been defined, but we are on our way to deciding what will be best for the nomination process. AECOM will likely want to contact landowners that

have portions of the canal on their property so that they can verify GPS coordinates for the canal. It is also **likely that they will reach out to members of the group to help with their research**. Due to the shutdown and recent snow, they are currently planning to do on-site research in March or April, but this is subject to change. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns. I'll keep you posted on the status of this project. We expect to have a completed nomination in 2020.” Robinson asked what the designation provides. Peterec said she will **request that Hauptman give a further update at the next meeting**.

3) Bollinger suggested adding to the agenda of the **next meeting** in April a **viewing of DVD Chapter 3**.

#### Announcements of Member Accomplishments, Concerns, and Upcoming Events:

Kerron Barnes – The Mamakating D&H Canal Trail Project is moving forward. He provided copies of the schedule of tasks updated as of 12/27/18. Work to upgrade 1.5 miles of canal trail through the Village of Wurtsboro is proceeding under a \$187,190 federal grant. They hope to start construction in August. There is a time restriction on removing trees because they are within two miles of a bat hibernating area. Starting next week, 103 trees will be removed from a portion of the towpath that the Town of Mamakating owns, starting at Ferguson Lane. It is required that the trail be 10 feet wide with 2 feet of shoulders.

S. Robert Powell – The City of Carbondale will celebrate the city's 168<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its incorporation on March 15. They mark the birthday annually.

Kathy Land – The August flea market at Waymart Area Historical Society earned approximately \$1,800. They will have their first meeting on Feb. 7 to get ideas for the new season.

Sally Talaga – As an update on the D&H Canal Park's canal “boat” pavilion and ADA ramp, Talaga reported that PA DCNR awarded \$44,000 toward the project, completing the funding “pie”. But now, according to their consultant, based on similar projects whose bids were awarded late last year, \$119,000 may not be enough and they may end up with a ramp and just a prefab metal pavilion. Its estimated cost also increased approximately \$10,000 since the board, to better accommodate parties, added an extra two feet to the 14 feet well-documented and researched width of a post 1850 canal boat. So the overall dimensions of the pavilion will be 70' by 16'. Ground breaking will probably be in April, so the project can be completed well before the PA DCDC grant expires at the end of 2019. Boat details, including a curved bow, will be added later when and if funding becomes available. Hopefully, the pavilion will be usable by the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Canal Festival, which will take place on Aug. 17. Most of the prior participants have been invited but new ones are always welcome. They are in need of a canal boatman/boatwoman to perform a 1<sup>st</sup> person interpretation, basket weaver(s), broom maker(s), bee keeper(s), and as always, two mules.

William Clark – The Matamoras-Westfall Historical Society lost the lease on its headquarters but they are continuing on with their mission. Exhibits are moving to the Matamoras Borough Hall, which offers a good space. On July 14, they will host a lecture by Frank Salvati on Brant's Volunteers.

Lynn Burns – On July 20, the Deerpark Museum will bring back the Joseph Brant Bus Tour, commemorating the 240<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the raid on Peenpack by Joseph Brant and his Tory Raiders. This marks the exact date of the famous raid. Further details will be provided. Robinson

thanked Burns for including an article in the December 2018 publication of the “Deerpark Diary” newsletter on the availability of the D&H documentaries based on Ramie’s press release.

Ingrid Peterec – With the federal government shutdown for 35 days and being on two weeks of vacation ahead of that, Peterec said she is trying to catch up. She introduced Laine Rubin, who is a spring intern for NPS. He will help with a coal mine program and D&H Canal Days, for which the Park Service received a transportation grant to allow more schools to participate in May. Rubin also does the Throwback Thursday social media posts. Rubin said that he is from Long Island and living in Beach Lake. Other NPS upcoming events include the Zane Grey Festival on July 13 and celebration of National Trails Day the first Saturday in June with work on pulling invasive weeds at the Towpath Trail. National Public Lands Day will be marked at the Corwin Farm.

Dave Hulse – The Interpretation Center at Summitville opens Memorial Day. The Sullivan County Division of Public Works has cleared overgrown vegetation there. They hope to get a feasibility study of a period building next to the Interpretation Center. It has been stabilized for now but not restored. He would like to see some part of it reopened.

Myra Snook – Interpretive signage for the Morris Canal Greenway was shared for two sites: Brass Castle Heritage Area; and Rockport. Last June, the county held a successful Park-fest event.

Cliff Robinson, Jr. – The Conservancy resolved its issue regarding the license from Orange County. It will expire in October 2019 which provides some months to work. There is a new Orange County Parks Commissioner. He does not appear to favor volunteer labor. A donor provided funding to assist with the \$60,000 left of their grant. They hope to repair a major canal section breach in the Spring. If so, it will be open and walkable from Huguenot to Port Jervis. He’s still working on getting an easement around the Hawk’s Nest.

Laurie Ramie – The Upper Delaware Council will hold its 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Awards Ceremony on April 28 at Central House Family Resort in Beach Lake, PA. U.S. Representative Matt Cartwright from the 8<sup>th</sup> District PA will be the keynote speaker.

**Next Council Meeting:** The next quarterly meeting will take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, **April 24, 2019, hosted by The Delaware Company at a location to be determined in the Town of Highland.** An agenda will be sent when arrangements are confirmed.

**Adjourn:** The Feb. 6, 2019 DHTHC meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m. on a **motion** by Moeller, seconded by Hulse.

*Minutes submitted by Laurie Ramie, 2/15/19*