

# **D&H Transportation Heritage Council**

## **July 25, 2018 Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

### **D&H Canal Historical Society and Museum, High Falls, 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, High Falls

**Jane Varcoe (treasurer)**, Waymart Area Historical Society

**Laurie Ramie (secretary)**, Upper Delaware Council

**S. Robert Powell**, Carbondale Historical Society

**William Clark**, Matamoras-Westfall Historical Society

**Kathy Land**, Waymart Area Historical Society.

**Sally Talaga**, Wayne County Historical Society's D&H Canal Park at Lock 31

**Steve Skye**, Neversink Valley Area Museum of History and Innovation

**Kenny Christianson**, Lackawaxen River Conservancy

**Bill Bollinger**, Bollinger & Rutter Video Production and Services

**Matthew Russo**, Bollinger & Rutter Video Production and Services

Call to Order: Chairperson Robinson called the business meeting held at the D&H Canal Museum in High Falls to order at 1:23 p.m. following an optional morning hike led by Bill Merchant and lunch gathering at The Egg's Nest.

Additions to the Agenda: Talaga requested adding a wrap-up report on the D&H THC bus trip.

Acceptance of April 25, 2018 Minutes: On a **motion** by Merchant, seconded by Varcoe, the minutes of the last quarterly meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report and 2018 Membership Update: Treasurer Varcoe reviewed her written report, which included an accounting of deposits made and checks issued since April 26, 2018. The current balance was \$2,074.47. There are 13 full members and five affiliate members. The Lackawaxen River Conservancy is the most recent full member addition. On a **motion** by Merchant, seconded by Skye, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

New Business:

- a) **Proposed Revision of Mission Statement** – Skye said that a contentious vote over selling the historic Bloomingburg Church reinforced the fact to him that history is about context. Communities grew up around the D&H canal. He feels that the language proposed for addition would encompass that notion more broadly. The proposed new mission statement would read: “The D&H Transportation Heritage Council is committed to promoting appreciation and preservation of the historic resources of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, and the Gravity Railroad of the Pennsylvania Coal Company, *and of those industries and communities that owed their existence to these organizations.*” The new phrase, represented in italics, was distributed in advance with copies also provided at the meeting. Skye said it points that the canal is about more than the gravity railroad and what exists between the berms. He said there was probably more wood carried on the canal than coal in the early years. Powell agreed that is a known fact. Varcoe said she agrees with the change but questioned why the PA Coal Company is included. She said we don't specifically address that entity and feels it should be deleted. Merchant said he believes the PA Coal Company is still an important part of our story. Robinson said we can promote appreciation for what it did, even if there are few tangible

- aspects of it remaining. Talaga raised the issue of whether this organization is “mushrooming out” too far with the mission statement addition. It could open up the group to being asked to support or act on causes that go beyond the D&H system. Skye said he understands there is that danger. Merchant said, in his opinion, this is correcting an omission that should have been there from the beginning. He doesn’t see it as expanding the scope. Robinson said it would always be the committee’s decision on a case by case basis whether to offer its support for any requests. On a **motion** by Talaga, seconded by Varcoe, the committee agreed to the concept of adding “and of those industries and communities that owed their existence to these organizations” to the D&H THC mission statement, with all in favor. Robinson noted that the official vote will be taken at the next meeting. As per the bylaws, “With at least 30-day written or emailed notice, the by-laws may be revised by a two-thirds majority of full membership in good standing, provided the requirements for a quorum are met, at a regular or special Council meeting, or by mail or e-mail vote under direction of the Secretary”.
- b) **Grant Support for Expansion of Five Locks Walk** – Merchant confirmed there is a proposal to expand the Five Locks Walk with a loop to the O&W Rail Trail that will connect to the future museum building in the DePuy Canal House. The goal is to tie into the Empire State Trail. The D&H Canal Historical Society has applied for a grant from the National Park Service that had a June 30 application deadline; therefore, a support letter from this Council would be past due.
- c) **Final Four of 24-Volume History of D&H Gravity Railroad and Canal Available** – Powell reviewed the themes of the last four e-books: XX, The Honesdale Branch of the D&H; XXI, The Anthracite Coal Strike of 1902; XXII, The People: The D&H, The Community; XXIII, The Quality of Life in the Lackawanna Valley in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century; and XXIV, The Birth and First Maturity of Industrial America. The cumulative number of pages in the whole series is 10,179. Each volume costs \$25. Powell said he has compiled three volumes of what he considers new maps and textual materials. The map scans are of very high quality and come with an explanatory sheet. He hasn’t seen those duplicated anywhere else and brought along copies today. Robinson said he thinks this series is “a remarkable achievement” and asked Powell what he will do with his time now. Powell said he’s working on a second edition to incorporate additional material. That updating process will take a couple more years.
- d) **DVD Chapter 2 Viewing** – The group paused to watch DVD Chapter 2: Honesdale to the Delaware River, which Bollinger has finished editing. He explained portions of it that he had re-worked. Powell commented afterwards that the DVD is wonderful and flows seamlessly. Ramie said she was impressed by the variety of voices in this segment, the conversational explanations, and the quality of the audio. Powell agreed that a strong virtue of this video is the instructional aspect of how the canal system functioned. Robinson said that there was 10 times as much footage filmed in order to produce these 17 minutes. Bollinger said, with the group’s approval of it, he can have 100 copies made by next week. Talaga said she wants to reserve nine to provide complimentary DVDs to the donors and featured interview subjects for this segment. The donors who did not request anonymity were Dorflinger Factory Museum, Wayne County Historical Society, Dorflinger Glass Museum, Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, and Rolf Moeller. The presenters are George J. Fluhr, Matt Osterberg, Ab Rutherford, Dr. Walter Barbe, and Susie Kaspar (besides Robinson and Talaga). On a **motion** by Talaga, seconded by Merchant, the committee agreed to provide complimentary copies of the final DVD to the donors and presenters in appreciation for their contributions, with all in favor. Bollinger said he will notify Ramie when the DVD copies are available so that she can find out which members would like to receive quantities. Bollinger offered to deliver them to various locations.

- e) **Publicity for DVD Chapters 1 and 2:** Regarding DVD Chapter 1: Gravity Railroad to Honesdale, Talaga reported that she has 71 copies left of the 2<sup>nd</sup> reprint order of 100 if anyone needs an additional supply. They are available through the Wayne County Historical Society. Skye asked if we are doing consignments of the DVDs. Talaga noted that the wholesale rate is \$7 and the retail rate is \$10. DHTHC members could sell them to stores and allow them to set their own sale rates. Robinson said he feels it's important for the museums to keep the \$10 rate, even if stores charge more, so that there is a benefit to purchasing them at local sites. When the Chapter 2 DVD is available, the group discussed whether to write a news release to distribute to all organizations or encourage each entity to make its own announcement of how and where it is available. The determination was made that Ramie will draft a template for a news release that can be customized. It should be accompanied by a consistent photo. The release will be posted on the Council's website and should be used in member's public outreach materials.
- f) **Filing Status of DVD Chapter 3: Roebling Bridge to Port Jervis:** The production cost has already been paid for the next chapter. The Leroy maps will be used for continuity since the newly-acquired maps from Canadian Pacific Railroad have copyright issues associated with sales items. As an aside, Christianson said that the Lackawaxen River Conservancy would like to get a set of the railroad company maps; he was advised to get in touch with Kerron Barnes to obtain the necessary documentation. Bollinger said he has one more day of filming at Tuthill Road in the Town of Highland, if permission can be secured for that private property. Debra Conway had offered to facilitate that. He will insert maps and then start editing.
- g) **DHTHC Bus Trip Report** – Talaga handed out a final report for the two D&H Co. Bus Trips that took place on April 29 and May 6 with the same Carbondale to Lackawaxen itinerary. (See attached report.) There was a profit of \$718 after expenses were paid, including the Garing bus rental, lunch at Cora's 1850 Bistro, and the administration rate charged by Wayne County Historical Society to handle the reservations. Income was derived from charging \$45 per person and being at capacity with 54 guests on each trip. Talaga noted they have a list of people who want to be notified when the next bus trip is planned. She referenced the "helpful hints for future trips" section of her report based on this experience. Robinson thanked her for her excellent work in organizing both trips.

Old Business:

- a) **Application for William G. Pomeroy Foundation Grants for Historic Canal Markers** – Skye said he believes there will be another opportunity for sites to apply for these markers if they missed the spring deadline. The link for more information is at <http://www.wgpfoundation.org/index.cfm/historic-canal-marker-grants/>.
- b) **Google Maps Directory of Publicly Accessible D&H Corridor Hikes** – No update.
- c) **DHTHC.org Website and <https://www.facebook.com/DHTHC> page** – Merchant said a popular feature to post to the Facebook page is "this day in history" for the canal. Varcoe said that everyone should be contributing fresh content for the website as well.

Announcements of Member Accomplishments, Concerns, and Upcoming Events:

Kathy Land – The Waymart Area Historical Society reopened its museum in April. They had a visit by the Red Hat Society of Beach Lake in May, participated in the Pride & Patriotism Parade in June and Farmers' Appreciation Day in July with square dancing, hay rides, and food; and hosted a book-signing by the authors of a new book about Route 6. Their next program is a flea market on Aug. 25.

Sally Talaga – The Wayne County Historical Society’s 2018 Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission’s Keystone Grant application for the lock house’s plaster repair was not funded. The demand was five times as great at the funding that was available. It will be resubmitted in March 2019. A donated barn was too big for the Canal Park as per consultant Zeke Boyle and too costly to cut down to fit on the 32’ by 40’ original foundation. It also was not all hand-hewed, which it needs to be to be of the same period of the 1820 hours. The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Canal Festival is on Aug. 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Authors Powell and Robinson will be signing books. Brochures were shared and Talaga requested help promoting the Lock 31 event.

S. Robert Powell – Within the last six months, the Settlers Inn owners took over management of the hotel in Carbondale, now known as The Anthracite. They redesigned the interior, renamed various rooms after the canal era, and sought historic photos from the Carbondale Historical Society to enlarge and display. There are also three huge chunks of coal featured in the lobby. Powell said this has created a huge buzz for the museum’s collections. The hotel hands out a flyer on historic attractions and directs people across the street. They are also selling a line of postcards that benefits the Society. Regarding the Canadian Pacific maps, Powell said it behooves us all to learn and do something from them, such as producing a document. They shouldn’t just be transferred to a file cabinet. Merchant said he wants to do a formal inventory of everything that’s along the canal based on those maps. He noted that he was able to determine who owned his canal home through these maps personally. Robinson said he found stock gates that he was never aware of from the maps.

Kenny Christianson – The Lackawaxen River Conservancy became a full member of the Council in March. They will have an exhibit at the Canal Festival at the D&H Canal Park at Lock 31 on Aug. 18. Their Day on the River is set for Aug. 4.

Steve Skye – Regarding the maps, Skye said that the New York State Historic Preservation Office has the same set and that inventory is stored in Albany. Skye said that everyone needs to stay aware of what’s going on in their communities and get involved. He worries over “creeping abandonment” of historic sites, mentioning the battle to convert the remainder of a steam train rail into a walking path since it is said to be too expensive the repair its deterioration.

Cliff Robinson, Jr. – As a member of the Orange County Pathways Committee, discussion continues over the Honders plan to re-water the dry canal bed in Cuddebackville. A report will be commissioned. Robinson predicted the likely outcome will be that it’s too expensive. The D&H Canal and Gravity Railroad Conservancy continues to need \$20,000 to complete its trail project in Orange County since the grant is reimbursement-based. He has made contacts with the Orange County Land Trust since entreaties to the Legislature have not been successful so far. Merchant said that the value of cultural tourism needs to be emphasized as an industry for those who control the funding.

**Next Council Meeting:** The next quarterly meeting will take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, **October 24**, 2018, hosted by the Neversink Valley Area Museum of History and Innovation in Cuddebackville, NY. An itinerary will be sent with the agenda closer to the date. The January meeting is targeted for Carbondale, PA to include a visit to the Anthracite Hotel.

**Adjourn:** The July 25, 2018 DHTHC meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m. on a **motion** by Clark, seconded by Varcoe.

*Minutes submitted by Laurie Ramie, 8/13/18*