

**ERIE CANALWAY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 30, 2005
BALDWINSVILLE VILLAGE HALL
BALDWINSVILLE, NEW YORK**

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Eric Mower.

In Remembrance:

There was a moment of silence for Commissioner Larry Stid who passed away earlier this month. A resolution was read and will be sent to his family recognizing his contributions to the commission. Larry will be missed by his family, friends and community.

Welcoming Remarks:

The Honorable Dan O'Hara, Mayor of the Village of Baldwinsville welcomed the Commissioners and expressed appreciation for all their hard work on this commission. He spoke of the public-private partnerships Baldwinsville has had in helping their economic development; that tourism, not manufacturing, is now the driving economy in Upstate New York; and the need to stay focused on the task at hand.

Comments and Management Plan Ceremony:

Congressman James Walsh spoke about the history of the Erie Canal, its national significance and the legislation introducing and designating the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. He spoke about the establishment of the 27-member community-based federal commission that would provide the program with direction and how Congress charged that commission with preparing a management plan. This proposed plan would provide the framework that will help guide resource preservation, economic development and community revitalization on the canal, and it will also build a cooperative partnership at all levels of government. He thanked the Erie Canalway staff for their efforts to bring this plan to this point. Congressman Walsh signed a letter conveying his support of the plan to Governor Pataki and requesting that the Governor review and approve the plan in a timely manner so the plan can be implemented.

Attendance:

Attendance was taken (see attached list), and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Meg Levine to approve the September 2005 minutes. The motion was seconded by Russ Andrews. The motion was approved unanimously.

Budget Report:

- The personnel costs programmed figure is \$304,000. This covers salary and benefits for five staff.
- Budgeted amounts were increased in the following line items:
 - Travel from \$20,000 to \$40,000.

- Mail from \$3,000 to \$5,000.
- Public Outreach from \$25,000 to \$30,000.
- Supplies and equipment from \$8,000 to \$10,000.
- Budgeted amounts for meetings and workshops, Heritage Alliance dues and administrative staff training remained the same as FY 2005.
- There is approximately \$205,070 available for project development. In addition, there is approximately \$100,000 of unallocated available money, which was rolled over to Parks and Trails New York. There is also an additional unobligated amount of \$100,000 of HUD money, which was received from Congressman Walsh for an aggregate amount of approximately \$405,000 available for project development.
- The ECNHC Baseline Survey of economic and historic preservation status in our communities and corridor has been included in the budget at an estimated cost of \$10,000. This baseline survey can be used in future reports, such as those requesting congressional renewal.

A motion was made by Joe Callahan to approve the FY 2006 budget. Motion was seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Erie Canalway Preservation and Management Plan Update and Schedule:

At the last Commission meeting, the Commissioners empowered the Executive Committee to review and accept the final comments or edit them as necessary. There was a conference call on October 21, which included the Executive Committee members, Erie Canalway staff and Canal Corporation. Besides editorial corrections there were substantive comments as detailed in the handouts. Some of the items that were discussed included:

- Adding the *M/V Day Peckinpaugh* and the commission's role with this project.
- As a way to acknowledge the State's proposed Erie Canal Greenway initiative, it was added to the plan.
- A new section entitled Consultation and Coordination was added to the plan. It summarizes the public review process from the past summer.

After these comments and edits were made, the plan was sent to the printers. After the Governor and Secretary of the Interior receive their copies, they will have 90 days to review the plan. They will reply in writing as prescribed by law with any issues or questions. Any changes or suggestions will be incorporated into the document, if feasible.

The next segment will be implementing the plan. Chapter 9 of the plan talks extensively about the work plan and the next steps in implementing the high priority actions. The staff have met many times and feel comfortable in moving forward on those initiatives. Grants and foundations are two of these initiatives.

Proposed Fundraising Organization:

Beth Sciumeca, Program Manager presented three models that she thought were relevant to this Commission's situation: the Alliance of National Heritage Areas, the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Area Foundation, and the National Park Foundation. There were questions as to the membership on the board; will there be commissioners on the board, and, if so, will it be a majority or minority? Will board members start off on projects and agenda that are very

different from what the commissioners envision? There is a need for a certain amount of board members to be experienced fundraisers. There were concerns that there are already many nonprofit organizations already established. What will the primary role of this new entity? Will it be strictly for raising money? Will this foundation have staff? Beth pointed out that the management plan states that the primary purpose of this nonprofit foundation is to aid the commission in accomplishing objectives it wants to achieve but cannot take on alone or where the commission may be limited by its legislated authorities and access to funding.

Bob McIntosh mentioned that there are different roles that have to be played by government organizations and nonprofit organizations in working together. Working out an agreement as to how to proceed is a very important step. He gave the example of the Grand Canyon and their foundation. The importance of their agreement legitimizes the partnership but more importantly defines priorities and who is in control. The agreement is the vehicle in which that is negotiated. The nonprofit raises the money-using name of the Grand Canyon. You give them that permission to do that and you control that name. He said it does matter who the people are but it is also a matter of a legal document between you and that organization as to the agenda. They are writing broad agreements that have a life of five years or longer and then writing annual agreements as to what specific projects, even if they are multi-year projects, what phase those projects are in and what role the commission would serve in supporting the activity and actually participating in the fundraising or providing information. The most successful have started very small with specific one, two or three goals so as not to take on too much early in the developmental years. But as they matured, they have been successful; they broadened their mission; and they broadened their scope in the intensity and depth of the partnerships.

There was a call for a vote as to whether it is in the opinion of the commission to keep control of whatever body we create, whether we call it foundation or corporation. Majority of commissioners voted to keep in control.

There was a call for a vote on whether or not the commissioners think they need to keep in control by virtue of membership or agreement. No vote was taken but the lengthy discussion made clear that the commissioners want to keep control in some fashion. Beth will work with Kim, Meg, and Joe to explore the legal options and will present options before the next commission meeting. There will be a vote on this subject at the next commission meeting.

Proposed Grant-Making Program:

Hannah Blake indicated that the grant program would be funded by the commission money they get through the federal allocation. She submitted recommendations and posed questions: Who will be able to submit a grant proposal? Proposed target dates? Applicant comes from the particular community in which the project is located. Eligible projects/ Is the Commission interested in giving a grant to a large project? Do we want to put a cap on the project? The project must be fully funded by the time the commission approves the project. It was suggested that the commission role should be to provide that gap financing so that the project is ensured when we do provide that support money. The project has to support the mission of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor objectives and goals. There is money that might be allocated this year. Once approved by the commission there is a lot of work in producing the application forms, guidelines, and making sure the legal requirements are fulfilled by the

applicants. Hannah will provide the Commissioners with a copy of the Blackstone National Heritage Corridor guidebook. There is also a need for a committee that will review these applications and the need to ensure there will not be a conflict of interest with any particular applicant. There were questions on whether preservation (bricks and mortar) and recreation projects would be excluded.

There was concern that a project may sound really good but they are in a locality/municipality that may not think it is a high priority or an appropriate project. Would there need to be a letter of support from the town or village board?

A task group was formed with Carol Greenaugh, Marcia Kees, Peter Smeenck, Russ Andrews, Alan Vincent and Stu Stein as chair. They are tasked with sending out recommendations for review by all Commissioners prior to the next commission meeting so action can be taken.

Proposed Special Event Program:

Frank Dean presented two significant proposals to the Commissioners. The commission needs to establish some sort of guidelines as to how to handle these types of requests.

Towpath Paddling Project: After discussion it was determined that this type of project may be better funded through a 501(c)3 because of the amount of funding and additional staff requirements.

Lois McClure: The *Lois McClure* is a replica canal schooner from Lake Champlain. The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum is looking for a sponsor for the schooner's 2007 voyage. They have developed a school curriculum for Vermont and New York that ties in with the vessel. Their proposal is to sail from Whitehall down to Albany and then across to Buffalo on the Erie Canal stopping at canal festivals. Admission would be free. It is uncertain whether the *Day Peckinpaugh* would be available in 2007 for canal tours. No action was taken at this time.

Commissioner Comments:

In reference to the *Day Peckinpaugh*, Tom Grasso thanked the Commission for its support in saving this historic and valuable vessel.

Marcia Kees announced that the feasibility study for the Niagara Falls area is now complete and out for public comment. It can be viewed at www.niagraheritagestudy.org.

Public Comments:

Vicky Daly, Mayor of Palmyra in Wayne County: She agrees grants should be run through the local municipalities and suggests that the Commission focus on Erie Canal related projects. Their village has a project to give access for more boaters to the east end of their village, which will in turn work with their main street revitalization economy. She indicated Frank has two copies of that project.

Paul Tater, member of the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance Board of Directors: Carp is the number one sport-fishing event in England and throughout most of Europe. The carp fishing world championship was held in Waddington, New York and was a very successful event. Since there are carp in the canals, He would like to promote that same idea along this corridor. He knows some small villages along the corridor that can benefit from tourism development.

Butch Waszkiewicz, Volunteer at the Children's Museum of History, Natural History, Science and Technology for the City of Utica: The Erie Canal Hall of Fame exhibit is located in their building and they are hoping in 2006 to have their first induction ceremony in May or June. They would like input for inductees for the Hall of Fame. He invited the commission to hold their meeting in Utica at 311 Main Street free of charge and free luncheon buffet. They are chartered by the Education Department as a 501(c)3 and are chartered to do all counties and boroughs in the state. They can easily expand their scope. He talked about different canoe and kayaking events.

Tom Ryan: He congratulated the commission and saw that there was a good reason to do another study and another management plan. He is now associated with Mercury Publications and the publisher Bob Gonyea and associate Jason Bernhardt is also here today. They are launching Canal Times, which will initially be a quarterly paper with hopes of being a monthly paper along the entire canal system. An issue will be out in December. They are looking forward to serving the same constituencies as this commission has. He requested a copy of the 10 points from the Canal Conference that was held two years ago. Eric will provide with revisions.

Kirk Tuff, Baldwinsville: He thinks this group has the potential for doing some great things. He is concerned with the problem of invasive weeds in the canal. In response to his concerns, Ken from DEC indicating they are taking some initiatives along the canal. Last year the Governor put together an Invasive Species Task Force for not just weeds along the canal but invasive species that are impacting the environment. They will introduce a funding program and they are experimenting with different pesticides applications. Other canal systems in the country have the same problems and no state has a silver bullet fix.

Sue Senecah, Specialist to State Senator George Maziarz: On behalf of the Senator and the Western Erie Canal Heritage Corridor Planning Commission, she congratulated this commission on the production of a valuable and exciting management plan. The plan is only as good as it gets things done and is credible at the local level and makes a real difference at the local level. They are delighted and excited about working collaboratively with the commission as partners to make good things happen.

Kris Cail, Economic Development Specialist for Cornell Cooperative Extension: One of the problems in the term of economic development in New York State has been folks not getting along from town to city to city to county to town and back and forth. She thinks it would be useful to consider a little flexibility concerning projects or even events that you may sponsor and could be mobile over time. One community may sponsor an event one year, and then another community. In projects that have a more regional impact going with the suggestions that local buy-in or local approval be not an iron clad requirement but rather something simply showing support. You may find tremendous interest to a rural area but can't quite get the support. Sometimes even in the village they are more interested in their main street and less interested in something that involves less of their population but may still have a really big impact on those areas directly adjacent to the corridor.

Susie Chodorow, Folk Arts Program Director, Arts and Cultural Council for Greater Rochester: She wanted to let the commission know that they were available to provide any kind of help or advice. She had worked as a consultant for the New York State Council; have developed regional programming and RFP's, etc.; and is a board member of the New York Folklore Society. They hope to be involved on a project to look at folk arts, folklore along the Erie Canal and to provide all sorts of programming. She wanted the commission know the arts are involved and want to be involved and are here to offer their services.

Peter Wiles: He congratulated the commission. As a canal user, as someone's family who owes their existence to the viability of the canal system, the commission's efforts and the plan outlines a very strong confidence-building guideline that makes him feel it will be around for a while. He extended the invitation to all commissioners to attend Canal New York, Inc., meeting at the Erie Canal Museum December 8 at 1:00.

Executive Committee Report:

The Executive Committee moved the plan approval process along by virtue of a lengthy telephone conference earlier in November. There have been no other Executive Committee activities over the past few months. It has all been focused on the management plan. With the passing of Larry Stid we have lost our Vice Chair so we need to address the issue of filling that vacancy.

Staff Report:

- An email will be sent asking for potential nominations as has been done in past officer elections and the vote on Vice Chair vacancy will be ratified at the next meeting.
- David Gaines will be retiring from federal service after 30 years. He was instrumental in getting the plan pushed through and was a great asset to the program.
- NYS DEC Commissioner Denise Sheehan was approved by the Secretary of Interior as a full-fledged commissioner on our federal commission.
- We will start to initiate discussion with the State DOT to see how to begin accessing the \$800,000 funding that was set aside for the signage project. These will be the gateway signs and will provide a unified look throughout the corridor for the program.
- Duncan Hay has been coordinating in getting the new brochure done by May 2006. This will be the classic National Park Service brochure with a full foldout map of the corridor and text on the other side that talks about the corridor history and program and what we are trying to do in the future. We are also doing wayside exhibits in various locations in the corridor this summer.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held in Syracuse. Date to be determined.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Prepared by: Mary Cunningham

Date: January 24, 2006

Approved by Secretary Megan Levin

Date: _____

Approved by the Erie Canalway National Heritage Commission Date: November 16, 2006

ATTENDANCE

November 30, 2005

Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor
Commission Meeting, Baldwinsville, New York

ECNHC Commission Members

Eric Mower, Chair

Megan Levin, Secretary

Joseph M. Callahan, Treasurer

Russ Andrews

Rocco DiVeronica

Tom Grasso

Carol Greenough

Lynn Herzig

Peter Smeenck

Kim Seager

Stuart Stein

Alan Vincent

Peter Welsby

Proxies held for absent Commission members (as necessary)

Proxy held by Eric Mower for Robert Reilly

Liaisons to the Commission

Marcia Kees, NYS OPRHP

Bob McIntosh, NPS

Ken Lynch, NYS DEC

Carol Cybulski, NSY Dept. of Agriculture and Markets

Carmella Mantello, NYS Canal Corp.

Staff

Frank Dean

Duncan Hay

Hannah Blake

Mary Cunningham

Beth Sciumeca

ATTENDANCE

November 30, 2005

Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor
Commission Meeting, Baldwinsville, New York

Guests

James Walsh, Congressman
Dan O'Hara
Vicky Daly
Nancy Hall
Joseph Saraceni
John Feltman
Paul Tater
Sue Senecah
James Darlington
Dick Robb
Will Barclay
Harvey Botzman
Jack Baker
Naomi Bray
Ed Butch Waszkiewicz
Krys Cail
Sam Basile
Paul Baxter
Anthony Saraceni
Tom Carney
Linda Clark
Ginny Carmody
Don Barrett
Erin Smith
John Guariglia
Bob Gagno
D. Palmer
Jason Bernhardt
David Bottar
Amanda Lode
Tom Ryan
Mary Crego
Erin St. James
Christine Gray
Stephen Graff

Susie Chodorow
Ralph Mirabelli
Bill Stimson
Peter Wiles, Jr.
Robert Falcons
Rick Harris
Mary Vanouse
Richard Friedrich
Dan Coholan
Howard Tupper
Paul Kocak
Jane Raemer
Joe Aiello
Joel Plumley
David Carlson
Craig Williams
M. Eisenstadt
Tom Jasikoff
Michele Beilman
Jennifer Hill
Bob Gerasi
Jim Kent
Curtis Torpp
David Tessier
Dr. & Mrs. David Beebe
Fenton Hanchett
Art Levy
Harry Moffat
Larissa Brenner
Dick Pfund
Henry Miller
Carrie Butler
Bob Daly
Kelly O'Brien