

**Ulster & Delaware Corridor Advisory Committee**

**DATE & TIME:** September 26, 2024 at 4:30PM  
**LOCATION:** Legislative Chambers, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, County Office Building, Kingston  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Chair Collins  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Michael Tierney, Legislative Support Specialist  
**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Legislators Kovacs, Litts, Nolan, Sperry, Uchitelle  
**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Legislator McCollough  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes  
**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislator Manna Jo Greene, Legislator Eric Stewart, Deputy Executive Amanda LaValle, Susan Auchincloss, Stuart Auchincloss, Carol Carson Tomasetti, David Hayes, Meg Carey, Karen Miller, Karl Beard, Steve Rice, Nick Mercurio, Kevin Smith, Patty Goodwin, Tim Weideman, Fred Riscop, Karen Spinozzi, Kudukwashe Mrroroh, David Hilliard, Howard Jameson, Russ Bonk, Elesse Hellegard, Monica Rooose, Yvonne Baker, Skip Alford, Kellee Esposito, Star Nigro, Robert Ludwigson, Josephine Nigro, Peter Fluchere, Ray Grehl, Mary Grehl, James Munson, Mark Feighn, William Sheldon, Joanne Sheldon, Amy Weisz, Marla Bruckner, Lori lee, Thomas LaFara, Lynn Richter, James LaTorve, Allison Beir, Natasha Watkins-Kircher, Kristin Flynn, Lee Kalish, Sean D. O'Brien, Howard Cohen, Claudia Bitante, Randy Bitante, David Barra, Tom Lennox, Beth Roessler, Lisa Berger, Sean Dykhouse, Mihael Halstead, Cynthia Niritin, Scott Mankle, John GrossBohlin, Maxanne Resnick, Ian McGraw, Andy Mossey, Jeremy Swift

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Chair Collins called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

**Motion No. 1**                                **Moved to Adopt August 22, 2024 Minutes**  
**Motion By:**                                Legislator Nolan  
**Seconded By:**                              Legislator Uchitelle  
**Voting in Favor:**                          Legislators Collins, Kovacs, Litts, Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:**                          None  
**Votes in Favor:**                            4  
**Votes Against:**                            0  
**Disposition:**                              **Minutes Approved**

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Chair Collins drew the Committee's attention to letters sent to Catskill Mountain Rail Road regarding activity beyond the limits of their lease agreement and corresponding letter from the Catskill Mountain Rail Road to Deputy County Executive Amanda LaValle.

Legislator Sperry arrived at 4:40 PM.

Chair Collins called on Peter Karis, Open Space Institute (OSI) Vice President of Parks & Stewardship to give a presentation to the Committee on the state of the corridor and the costs and infrastructure improvements associated with Rail with Trail and Trail only options for the undesignated section of the corridor. Highlighted among these concerns are the width of the existing corridor, that any rail with trail would necessitate widening the trail, including both rock cut and the raised portions over wetland areas, as well as the narrowness of the bridges.

Mr. David Barra asked about proposed dual use of the trail. Mr. Kevin Smith asked if OSI calculated the anticipated increase of use following a hypothetical connection of the Empire State Trail with the Ashokan Rail Trail through this corridor. Ms. Star Nocro asked about safety and emergency service access to rail trails across the county. Mr. Ken Anello inquired about

costs associated with just trail use. Mr. Ernie Hunt asked about the cost of just rail use. Mr. Jeremy Swift asked about a trail crossing at Hurly Mountain Road to connect the O&W Trail with the Ashokan Rail Trail.

Following the close of the public questions, Chair Collins asked the Committee if they would like to begin discussion of the letters referenced earlier in the meeting. The Committee decided to discuss this topic at the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Ulster & Delaware Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday October 24, 2024 in Legislative Chambers.

**Adjournment**

**Motion By:** Legislator Kovacs  
**Seconded By:** Legislator Litts  
**TIME:** 5:37 PM  
**Respectfully Submitted By:** Michael Tierney, Legislative Support Specialist  
**Minutes Approved:** October 24, 2024