

# Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc.

## April 27, 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes

### Attendance:

#### *Voting members:*

**John Pizzolato**, Town of Highland alternate, Chairperson  
**Rosie DeCristofaro**, Town of Delaware representative, Vice-Chair  
**Larry Richardson**, Town of Cochection rep., Secretary-Treasurer  
**Glenn Pontier**, Town of Highland rep., Outgoing Chairperson  
**Ginny Dudko**, Town of Deerpark rep.  
**Teresa Spradling**, City of Port Jervis rep.  
**Bianca Velez**, Town of Lumberland rep.  
**Freda Eisenberg**, Sullivan County alt.  
**Bill Dudko**, Town of Deerpark alt.

#### *Non-voting members:*

**Carmela Hugel**, Sullivan Renaissance  
**Ingrid Peterec**, National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River  
**Martin Higgins**, Narrowsburg Chamber of Commerce  
**Laurie Ramie**, Upper Delaware Council

#### *Guests:*

**Nadia Rajszyk**, Sullivan County Legislature  
**Roberta Byron Lockwood**, Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association

**Call to Order:** 2019-2020 Chairperson Pontier called the annual meeting conducted via conference call to order at 7:00 p.m. Attendance was taken through roll call.

**Election of Officers, April 2020-April 2021:** Pontier listed the candidates who had been named at last month's meeting by the Nominating Committee. He asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor. Hearing none, Pontier instructed the Secretary-Treasurer to cast one vote for the slate of officers: Chairperson John Pizzolato (Town of Highland); Vice-Chairperson Rosie DeCristofaro (Town of Delaware); and Secretary-Treasurer Larry H. Richardson (Town of Cochection), with unanimous approval.

Pontier said it has been his pleasure to serve as chair and be an active member for many years. To him, this is a powerful organization. It's larger than the river valley and the Sullivan County Catskills since it includes Delaware and Orange County too. We represent the border of New York State. For a lot of people, that's considered the edge. For us, it's the center, the middle of where we live. This highway constructed under FDR in the 1930s takes on a life of its own. He sees the role of this group as two-fold: 1) to protect and preserve the scenic beauty of this valley, which is not an easy battle since there are a lot of threats; and 2) to promote the valley and open it up so others can share in this gorgeous treasure. Tourism is our #1 industry. We need to make a living here too. It takes skill and balance to walk the line between those two charges. Pontier said he wishes Johnny and everyone well as he turned the meeting over to Pizzolato. The committee gave him a round of virtual applause.

Pizzolato expressed appreciation to Pontier for being extremely gracious in passing the baton. His passion for the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway area and the river is obvious. He thanks him again. Pizzolato said he is very excited to work with everyone to protect, promote, and defend the byway and the river. He would like to have our organization stand for something of beauty and accomplishment.

### Business Items:

- a.) **Approval of March 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes:** On a **motion** by Pizzolato, seconded by G. Dudko, the meeting minutes were approved, with all in favor.

b.) **Correspondence Report:**

Ramie offered a written report of outgoing and incoming correspondence since the last meeting. She noted that copies of any individual documents are always available. Asterisks indicate handouts or potential action items:

*Outgoing Correspondence:*

1. \*To Michelle Huck, Sullivan County, 3/21: UDSB, Inc. voucher for \$25,000 for 2020 Legislative Discretionary Contracts program. (Response on 3/22: "Please be aware that the County has issued a freeze on all spending outside of essential and in direct response to COVID-19. Therefore this voucher will not be processed until such time as the freeze is lifted.")
2. To Narrowsburg Union representatives from Dan Paparella, 3/23: UDSB, Inc. has voted to forego the planning of a 4/25 event at the Narrowsburg Union for the Upper Delaware Litter Sweep. Depending on the development of PAUSE over the next month, we are still interested in encouraging folks to engage in the Litter Letter project and the art show. I apologize for any inconvenience. (Response from Kathy Weiden on 3/23, excerpted: We would love to mount the show when the coast is clear. The call for entries already went out with the caveat re: the potential schedule. We will update the post for opening TBD. Maybe some artists will use this time to create a piece for the show. All submissions were electronic anyway so no need to halt that process.)
3. To UDSB Committee, 3/28: Summary of Action Items from March 23, 2020 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Teleconference.
4. To National Geographic Books, 3/28: Letter requesting the inclusion of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway in the next edition of the "Guide to Scenic Highways & Byways: The 300 Best Drives in the U.S.". (Laurie sent a final copy on UDSB stationery to Chairperson Glenn Pontier to sign and send.)
5. To Rev. Mark Walsh, Barryville United Methodist Church, 3/28: Approval of \$220 request through the Signage Along the Byways grant. Please provide documentation of how you will meet the required 50% match. Project must be completed by 12/31/20 unless an extension is requested and public acknowledgement of the UDSB funding is requested. Any permits are the responsibility of the applicant to secure. A brief final report is needed to confirm completion of the project.
6. To UDSB Contact List, 3/29: Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, Inc. March 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes.
7. \*To UDSB Committee from Larry Richardson, 4/2: Suggest everyone review the UDSB website and send any specific changes needed to Laurie. Also review the businesses listed in your municipalities.
8. \*To Carmela Hugel, Dan Paparella, and Laurie Ramie from John Pizzolato, 4/9: Updates on follow-up conversations and seeking to arrange a meeting to discuss the Litter Pluck Social Media Challenge. (A teleconference was arranged on 4/13 with Johnny, Dan, Laurie, Carmela, Bianca, Roswell Hamrick-Greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce, and Brian Scardefield-Sullivan County Parks, Recreation & Beautification participating.)
9. \*To UDSB Committee, 4/17: Application by the Hancock Community Education Foundation for a \$555 Promoting Butterfly Habitat Grant, sent for advance review.
10. To UDSB Committee, 4/22: Preliminary draft agenda for April 27 UDSB meeting. (Discussions ensued of whether to meet using FreeConferenceCall.com or Zoom.)
11. To Dan Hust, Sullivan County Communications Director, from Laurie, 4/25: Inquiring about the status of the Sullivan County Legislature's Discretionary Contracts Program for 2020, as to whether funding is deferred or eliminated for the UDSB \$25,000 contract.

*Incoming Correspondence:*

1. From Delaware County Chamber of Commerce, weekly: News from Your Chamber online newsletter.
2. From Rev. Mark Walsh, Barryville United Methodist Church, 3/23: Completed form: UDSB Grant Application for Signage Along the Byway with \$220 request.
3. From Kris Gilbert, NYS DOT, 3/23: Report: NYS DOT Projects Along Rt. 97.
4. From Linda O'Brien, Hancock Community Education Foundation, 3/24: Inquiring about the availability of 2020 funding for butterfly grants. The RFP on the website is dated 2019 so wanted to make sure before applying. (Laurie responded on 3/24 that she doesn't have access to that file electronically from home but the guidelines remain the same. Provided timeline to request application.)
5. From Ginny Dudko to Glenn Pontier, 3/25: Hawk's Nest Issue Follow-up. (Laurie forwarded the message to the committee with permission.)
6. From Cathy Niederriter, NYS DOT, to Dan Paparella, 3/25: Due to the COVID-19 virus, NYS DOT will have to back out of partnering with your mission for this year. This includes the work zone and trash pick-up requests. We also will not be able to supply hard hats and vests as they are needed for drive-thru locations. Without NYS DOT support and the required permit for litter pickup, only homeowners that abut the Rt. 97 corridor are allowed to pick up trash from their property to

the roadway. We hope next year finds us in a much better role as this is a worthwhile cause. (Dan responded on 3/29: Would love to chat again this fall and start getting a plan together for Spring 2021.)

7. From Larry Richardson to UDSB Committee, 3/28: "I am advising that we be very prudent on how we plan to spend resources this year. Actual member support donations received are \$6,250.00 We have expended to date \$3,178.00. With the revenue stream to the county interrupted and when any funds might be forthcoming an unknown, I am suggesting that any planned large expenditures be put on hold until we have a clearer picture. We do have substantial funds as a year-end balance accumulated over years."
8. From Eve Fisher, Brooklyn, 3/31: UDSB signage grant match documentation: Invoice of \$300 for graphic design services for Barryville United Methodist Church.
9. From Paul DeMarco, Wild Rides.com, 3/31: Once the dust settles and we begin to go back to some type of normalcy, people want to know you are well and "open for business". Our maps will be a great vehicle to spread a positive message that "we're back!" Let's discuss how we can make this happen.
10. From Larry Richardson, 4/1: Sending the \$1,000 check to the Callicoon Business Association for Depot professional services and have revised the application form for the Signage Grant. (Laurie forwarded the form to Nancy Furdock to replace on the UDSB website grants page.)
11. From Linda O'Brien, 4/1 mailbox pick-up of item dated 3/25: Application with sample signage for "Promoting Butterflies Along the Byway" grant.
12. Published in Sullivan County Democrat, 4/7, Profile in Paula Campbell's Highland column featuring the history of the Stickett Inn business enterprises owned by Johnny Pizzolato and Roswell Hamrick.
13. From Jeff Bank, 4/13 mailbox pick-up: UDSB, Inc. statement ending 3/31/20 with \$35,037.82 balance. (Laurie forwarded to the treasurer.)
14. From Ginny Dudko, 4/16: Forwarding a 4/15 press release posted on Orange County Legislator Tom Faggione's Facebook page re: Town of Deerpark Police Department arrests two New Jersey residents, ages 21 and 23, for Making Graffiti, a Class A misdemeanor, as part of an ongoing investigation at the Hawk's Nest Scenic Area being conducted by Deerpark PD and New York State Police. The suspects were given appearance tickets for Deerpark Justice Court on May 20. Ginny added that the pull-off area on the west end has been blocked off with signs saying that parking is prohibited there. (Laurie forwarded the message to the committee, and the one below.)
15. From Dave Dean, deputy supervisor, Town of Deerpark, 4/16: Confirmation that the town erected sand barriers in that turn-around area which is privately owned by the Hawks Nest Hunting Club, with their permission. Patrols have been beefed up to counteract the promotion of this area as a meeting location through Facebook site: Hawks Nest Weekend, Hawks Nest Outrage, and Living in Barryville.
16. \*From John Pizzolato to UDSB Committee, 4/16: Believe very strongly that we should work with law enforcement and the local communities to help fund and install inexpensive cameras to film activity at the Hawks Nest with signage. "It is our chief job to protect the promote the Scenic Byway and we should be taking an active role in doing so."
17. From Susie Kaspar, NPS, 4/17: Ingrid Peterec will return to the Upper Delaware on 4/20 after her detail and will resume her representation of the National Park Service on the UDSB Committee. I will continue to work on the Litter Sweep Social Media Challenge as time allows and may be kept on the mailings to serve as an alternate for Ingrid.
18. From Debra Conway, UDSB Town of Highland Co-Alternate, 4/17: Has UDSB, Inc. already received its 2020 funding from Sullivan County? I see that budget item was among the many cuts authorized yesterday by the Sullivan County Legislature.
19. From John Pizzolato, 4/23: UDSB membership update for Narrowsburg Chamber of Commerce, adding Martin Higgins as an alternate.
20. \*From Larry Richardson, 4/27: Resolution Modifying Voucher Authorization for Clerk Services.
21. From Glenn Pontier, 4/27: Gov. Cuomo Executive Order: Suspension of Article 7 of the Public Officers Law allowing the attendance of meetings telephonically or other similar service – "to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such actions authorized by the law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and authorizing such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed."
22. \*From Kris Gilbert, NYS DOT, 4/27: NYS DOT Projects along Rt. 97 Update.
23. \*From James Buck, NYS DOT, 4/27: Contractor will begin removing hazardous trees on NYS Route 97 in the Town of Tusten between the southern town line and Homestead Road, with work expected to take approximately 2 weeks with alternative lane closures and flag personnel.

**c.) Treasurer's Financial Report, Status of Sullivan County \$25,000 Funding Contract:**

Richardson thanked the committee for their continued support. He reviewed transactions reflected on his written report. The current balance is \$33,767.62. There are no outstanding bills. Richardson offered a draft resolution Modifying Voucher Authorization for Clerk Services which he read aloud: "Whereas, COVID-19 safety restrictions prevent the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Committee from conducting in-person meetings, and; Whereas, vouchers for payment for Clerk Services require an authorizing signature

from the Chairman, and: Whereas, payment for Clerk Services as agreed should be sent in a timely manner; Therefore be it resolved that, until further notice, the Treasurer shall be authorized to mail the appropriate remittance in a timely manner following the regularly scheduled monthly meeting.” He said this is meant to address the issue of the signature. On a **motion** by G. Dudko, seconded by DeCristofaro, the financial report and the resolution were both accepted, with all in favor.

With regards to Sullivan County funding, Pizzolato noted that Ramie had sent an inquiry to County Director of Communications Dan Hust about the status of the UDSB \$25,000 Legislature Discretionary Contract which had been executed on 2/20 with a voucher submitted on 3/21, given the county funding freeze enacted in response to COVID-19. Ramie said she had not received a response from Hust as yet. Pizzolato said he discussed this with Legislature Chairman Rob Doherty yesterday, who suggested that the funding would be guaranteed. Rajsz said this matter is primarily why she had joined the call. She offered congratulations to Pizzolato and a thank you to Pontier for their service, stating that the river valley and Rt. 97 are very important to her. She said her understanding is that all of the county’s discretionary funding was nixed as a result of a vote taken today to deal with a \$6 million-plus financial deficit that has sadly led to job lay-offs and is affecting a lot of big organizations in the county, but she is waiting for definitive confirmation of that. As soon as she hears back from County Manager Josh Potosek, she will report back. Rajsz said she has advocated for \$20,000 for the UDSB from the county for the last several years and this year, was pleased to secure \$25,000. It will break her heart if that is wiped out. Eisenberg referenced the Legislature’s resolution which she said showed \$100,000 as being available out of the \$300,000 that had originally been budgeted for the Discretionary Contracts Program. Rajsz said that could be because some organizations had already received payments. Richardson said when he submitted the UDSB \$25,000 voucher on 3/21, he received a response from Michelle Huck saying that all funding had been frozen. Rajsz said this is a big question mark. She will try to get an answer quickly and rejoin the call if she hears back from Potosek while the meeting is still underway. Signing off, she reiterated that the byway is “near and dear” to her as a former UDSB chairperson and long-time member.

**d.) Grant Applications: Butterfly Promotion; Business & Non-profit Signs; Vista Enhancement:**

Ramie reported that one application was received for the Promoting Butterflies on the Byway Grant and circulated in advance with samples of the proposed signage attached. The Hancock Community Education Foundation (HCEF) requests a \$555 matching grant to create a kid-friendly butterfly way station at the Robert W. Nichol Nature Preserve and Science Center in Hancock. Anticipated expenses are \$240 for 3 custom informational Monarch butterfly signs with posts and installation; \$320 for butterfly bushes, shrubs, and plants; \$220 for Garden Activity Stations; \$150 for a load of mulch; \$50 for natural fertilizers; and \$130 for advertising/promotion brochures, for a total project cost of \$1,110. Pizzolato said this appears to be in line with our parameters. G. Dudko agreed that they did a nice job putting the project together. Ramie confirmed that HCEF is a previous UDSB Butterfly Promotion grant recipient for an Earth Day Event that had to be cancelled this year due to COVID-19. On a **motion** by G. Dudko, seconded by Richardson, the committee approved awarding \$555 to HCEF as requested, with all in favor.

**e.) Other:**

1. Rajsz rejoined the call at 7:29 p.m. She confirmed that the Legislature Discretionary Contracts program does have \$100,000 remaining in it. She’s not sure it will be possible for UDSB to receive the original \$25,000 but feels that it can be tweaked to \$20,000. The county recognizes that this is an extremely important organization to promote the river valley. Pizzolato thanked Rajsz for her advocacy and said that is a wonderful resolution to this.
2. Pizzolato introduced an addendum to the agenda. Prototypes for anti-littering signage were circulated by email earlier today. In response to the Upper Delaware Council’s need to cancel the 4/22-25 Upper Delaware Litter Sweep that was being coordinated by Dan Paparella, some folks had a call on 4/13 to discuss what could be done instead. These signs would address the

resurgence of litter along Rt. 97. They state, “WELCOME TO [NAME]. PLEASE KEEP OUR LAND & WATER CLEAN! NO LITTERING” with a customized logo for each community, in a rounded, 20-inch diameter format on a post. Pizzolato said he has approached the Greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce (GBCC), Narrowsburg Chamber of Commerce, and Callicoon Business Association (CBA) so far to gauge their interest in sponsoring these signs. He would extend that to the Cochecton Preservation Society and the Lumberland Beautification Group. GBCC committed to \$500 in financial support. Higgins said that the Narrowsburg Chamber offered verbal support but their board of directors hasn’t yet met. He did find that the Tusten Town Board had some concerns about sign clutter and stated that this would require a permit. Pizzolato said CBA President Nicole Vallance replied that they can’t commit at this time since they still await member dues but offered to help coordinate this. Pizzolato said he envisions UDSB, Inc. offering logistical assistance with seeking locations, permission, and permits. Each sign is estimated to cost around \$300 to manufacture. He noted that Eve Fisher did the design to try to encompass the style of each community and she is amenable to input. Hugel said many communities already have welcome or beautification signs installed. This may or may not jibe with their branding. Higgins agreed with that. Tusten just put up new welcome signs. He suggested emphasizing the anti-littering message rather than the welcome. B. Dudko said, as a former truck driver, he can advise that if these signs contain too much information, they’ll be unreadable and ignored. Hugel agreed with deleting the WELCOME TO. Eisenberg wondered if there was any consideration to reinforcing the brand of the UDSB on these signs rather than keying it in to each municipality. Higgins said that would be more in line for a design type. Pizzolato said it would be great to incorporate the UDSB logo and color scheme. This was a call to promote individual town themes, asking people to respect the community they’re in, but he can see sharing a common motif, logo, and coloration. Richardson asked if the “welcome” could be replaced by the phrase “A BYWAY COMMUNITY” to tie them together? DeCristofaro said she finds that town names are not as significant to people as hamlet names. She’d rather see those listed. She can see this No Littering sign working in conjunction with the Town of Delaware’s existing welcome signage. Pizzolato said that Sullivan Renaissance is looking to potentially expand this program into other roads in Sullivan County. He said maybe using the hamlet name is better. DeCristofaro said we should ask the designer to use the UDSB logo and colors. Pizzolato asked Lockwood for her thoughts. Lockwood said she feels it would be great for community pride to call out those local names. That would get more wrap-around exposure. Keeping it consistent and cohesive will be more welcoming. Spradling offered that, instead of WELCOME TO, how about THANKS FOR VISITING [NAME]. PLEASE KEEP OUR LAND & WATER CLEAN! She felt it was unnecessary to say NO LITTERING. That’s obvious and more friendly. Pizzolato said he will pass these notes along to the designer. Proceeding with them will require securing financial commitments.

**Public Comment:** Ramie noted that the *Times Herald-Record* had provided nice coverage of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Hawk’s Nest driving route through an article and photos, and the preservation of monarch butterflies through interviews that included Debra Conway in its recently published “Living Here” section. The newspaper today had an article about the great job that the Barryville Farmers’ Market is doing during the COVID-19 restrictions. Pizzolato said that the naming of the Delaware as the River of the Year is something that the UDSB Marketing Committee should celebrate once the tourism industry that is currently in flux resumes promotions. Lockwood said that the Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association would like to be involved in that. They have several initiatives that could help propel that designation. It’s a wonderful accolade for the river and something we can promote in our backyard. Velez said she would like to help with creating a social media campaign to include that River of the Year messaging. Ramie noted that, during this time of no non-essential travel, the National Park Service offers a virtual tour of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River for any visitors.

### Discussion Items:

- a) **Remote Meeting Platform; Schedule of Monthly Meetings** – Pizzolato asked if there is any interest in transitioning to video conference meetings such as through Zoom. G. Dudko said that she feels the conference call method works fine, with B. Dudko adding that it will be nice to see everyone in person again when we can. Pizzolato said that the current meeting schedule is for the 4th Monday at 7 p.m. Next month, however, there is a conflict with Memorial Day. He asked about moving the meeting up a week to May 18. After discussion, the committee opted to move it back one week to June 1 instead. Pizzolato said we'll stick with the teleconferences.
- b) **Response to Hawk's Nest Criminal Activity and Graffiti Vandalism** – G. Dudko said she trusts that everyone had a chance to read her reports of her communications with the Town of Deerpark Police Chief and the town board about measures they are taking and a recent arrest that was made at the Hawk's Nest. She noted that the big gathering area on the west end privately owned by the Hawk's Nest Hunting Club has been blocked off with their permission. Lately, the weather hasn't been that conducive to people showing up there. Dudko said they live on the Rt. 42 end and can hear the racing of vehicles from their home when it does go on. The police can only patrol there for so long. Pizzolato said this is a plaguing issue to him. He has been following the posts on social media about "Hawk's Nest Nights & Weekends". Since they label their Instagram handles, they're completely traceable. He thinks it's worth reaching out to the Port Jervis Police Department too, though B. Dudko noted they have no jurisdiction there. Pizzolato said he felt they could maybe get a waiver from that agency or the State and County patrols, since having a police presence there is a big deal. He personally saw about 18 kids gathered with no social distancing observed. Problems are extending into Sullivan County as well with graffiti at the Pond Eddy Bridge. There have been racial epithets that are disturbing. It's very serious. Higgins said he loves the idea of installing cameras as a simple and smart solution. He doesn't know what it would take to make that happen. B. Dudko said it would probably require installing a repeater for the signal and they would have to be hidden to avoid tampering. Pizzolato said they have solar-powered cameras. The idea is to capture digital images of what is going on there. B. Dudko said he is familiar with some members of the hunting club; their permission would be needed if any cameras were placed on that pull-off. Pizzolato said he had thoughts of befriending some of these kids to infiltrate their groups but that seems like a bad idea now. Velez said she has some ideas about cameras and offered to do some research into various options. Pizzolato said that information could be taken to the Deerpark Police.
- c) **Upper Delaware Litter Sweep Social Media Challenge and Litter Letters Art Project** – Pizzolato said the Litter Sweep challenge idea got "shot down" by the county, which is unable to give stickers for dumping of the waste and is concerned about encouraging any litter pick-ups since the coronavirus can live on surfaces. He regards the Litter Letters project as a phase two step for the Anti-Littering signage initiative.
- d) **Update of 2002 Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Enhancement Concept Plan** – Pizzolato asked if anyone wants to take on this item that was tabled last month? Richardson said it's a difficult topic to discuss in a teleconference setting. He just doesn't want us to forget about it. Ramie said this was instigated by the consideration to seek National Scenic Byway status, when we were advised that our plan from 2002 would be considered too outdated. Since the committee opted against pursuing that designation, there is no particular time pressure to act. While the original firm, HRG Consultants, that had worked with a local committee to develop this corridor management plan is no longer active, its principal Carol Truppi was interested in offering her services individually when Ramie tracked her down. Pizzolato said this would be a good project for grant eligibility. Eisenberg said that Sullivan County Planning can assist, particularly since that office had been integral to this project in the first place under Commissioner Alan Sorensen.

She offered to propose a process for updating it. Pizzolato said he appreciated that and asked if Richardson would join in that effort with himself as a third committee member. He agreed. This can be done after the next meeting.

- e) **Other** – None

**Follow-up Actions and Committee Reports:**

- a) **Mobilize Committees** – Pizzolato reported that Velez has offered to evaluate the UDSB website. Legislature Chairperson Doherty had made the observation that the site is not the best representative of who UDSB is and that many of the business listings are out-of-date. Pizzolato said we should discuss what the financial needs are related to website improvement to come up with an online presence that will attract visitors and customers. This is a good time to work on getting ready for our close-up as we press pause on tourism. Our next focus could be getting ready for the leaf peeping season. He suggests that the Marketing Committee get together before the June 1 UDSB meeting.
- b) **NYS DOT Report** – 1) Kris Gilbert had provided a written report with the status of capital projects: Guiderail Work (9TDG21) in Towns of Delaware and Cohecton – construction anticipated for July 2020; Tree-cutting Work in Tusten – work anticipated to begin this week and be completed in a couple weeks, all work will be done from the roadway, locations are near the work done last year, work in one location should widen an existing view to the river (point of interest 108 in the UDSB Enhancement Concept document); Rt. 97 Slope Stabilization (938949) for guiderail work in the Towns of Fremont and Delaware – construction anticipated in late 2021/2022; Bridge #6 (Cohecton) – staged construction now planned, construction anticipated in 2021, bridge deck replacement and structural repairs, possibly using precast deck panels to expedite construction; Tusten Long-Term Restoration Work to Remove Invasive Species – work anticipated in late 2021/2022; Rt. 97 Harsh Winter Paving (9HW041) – planned for John Deck Road to Lordville Road in Delaware County later this year; Bridge #7 (Callicoon) – deck replacement, pier rehabilitation and painting, staged construction anticipated in 2-3 years, bicycle and pedestrian access will be preserved during construction. Sullivan & Delaware County Operations – All residencies are continuing to perform maintenance as necessary while operating with very reduced staff due to the coronavirus crisis. Although it is still uncertain whether it will be possible for Sullivan County Operations to coordinate mowing at a particular time in the area from Reference Marker 1139 to 1141, NYS DOT has received the UDSB’s revised request to do this work near the end of June. 2) DeCristofaro said she finds it very frightening to drive by those areas in the Town of Delaware where the orange barrels put up in lieu of guard rails keep falling down the embankment. The pavement is eroding. There is very little protection there. She questions the length of time indicated for that slope stabilization and which of these projects that involves. 3) Richardson said that Senator Metzger received a response from the NYS DOT that they will keep one lane open during the construction work on the Cohecton-Damascus Bridge. 4) A handout was provided of 4/27 notification by NYS DOT Region 9 Maintenance Environmental Coordinator James Buck of the removal of hazardous trees along Rt. 97 in the Town of Tusten between the southern line and Homestead Road. Higgins said that he is concerned about how this area will look after the work is finished. They’re trimming it to the ground. At Beaver Brook, they left a lot of limbed-up tree stumps. Those are eyesores. He’s a bit dubious about the job they’re doing. Pizzolato said it may not be completed fully.
- c) **Callicoon Train Depot and Visitor Center Project Update** – Pizzolato said he had a wonderful conversation with Nicole Vallance about the status of this project and all the hard work that has gone into it. Eisenberg said the lease contract with Central New York Railroad appears close to coming to terms with the revisions that the CBA lawyer requested. She will be speaking with the

county's consultant tomorrow to move forward the Phase I Environmental Assessment for the Depot property. Pizzolato said that Rob Doherty has expressed interest in doing a walk-through tour of the Depot when possible. Pizzolato said it's important to keep this on the radar of the legislators. He asked Higgins if he was aware of apparent plans by the Narrowsburg Union to incorporate an Upper Delaware Welcome Center that was the subject of a recent legal notice published in the *Sullivan County Democrat*. Higgins said this was news to him.

- d) **NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Operations** – Peterec reported that, following PA and NY guidelines, all non-essential employees of the Park Service who can are teleworking, with others on administrative or safety leave. Signage has been posted at river accesses about the CDC Guidelines for Social Distancing. As soon as the weather improves, they expect more visitation. No bathrooms are open. Summer programming is on hold. The Delaware River Sojourn and Zane Grey Festival have been cancelled. Nobody is sure beyond those events what will happen; decisions are being made daily. Summer seasonal staff has been hired but there will be fewer people than usual and they won't start until May 26. Since there won't be any training before then, they will have to be brought up to speed quickly. The National Park Service's Adaptive Recovery Plan is focused on protecting human life, and reducing the spread and resurgence of COVID-19. Staff will be returning to work in phases so that they're not all in one building at the same time. The offices must be prepared through cleaning and restocking. Essential Law Enforcement and Maintenance personnel have continued working. Pennsylvania Governor Wolf announced today that, as of 5/1, PA golf courses, marinas, private campgrounds, and guided fishing trips will be allowed to resume. The PA and NY accesses have remained open throughout this time but liveries are not able to operate. There are still many unknowns. Additionally, Upper Delaware Superintendent Kris Heister has announced that she has taken the job offer as Deputy Superintendent at Gettysburg National Military Park effective 6/7. She's currently on detail there through 5/30, with Jessica Weinman serving as Acting Superintendent here. The NPS has advertised for applicants for that Upper Delaware acting detail to last through the summer.
- e) **UDC 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Awards Ceremony Rescheduled to Aug. 30** – Ramie provided handouts of the slate of honorees and the invitation/reservation form for the Upper Delaware Council's awards banquet at Central House Family Resort in Beach Lake, PA, which has been postponed for the third time to 8/30. Award recipients include Nancy Furdock for the Community Service Award, who had been nominated by Pontier on behalf of the UDSB Committee. Ramie noted a decision will be made by mid-July about whether the public ceremony will be able to proceed.
- f) **Other** – Pizzolato thanked everyone for their patience as he presided over his first meeting as chair, and offered congratulations again to DeCristofaro and Richardson.

**Next Meeting Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, June 1, 2020 (changed from 4<sup>th</sup> Monday due to Memorial Day conflict)

**Adjourn:** On a **motion** by Spradling, seconded by Richardson, the April 27, 2020 UDSB teleconference meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

*Minutes prepared by Laurie Ramie, 5/2/20*