

MINUTES OF THE NATURAL HERITAGE TRUST
BOARD MEETING
January 28, 2022

ATTENDEES:

BOARD MEMBERS

Erik Kulleseid	Commissioner NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP)
Laura DiBetta	Designee for Commissioner Basil Seggos Director of Outdoor Recreation NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Kisha Santiago-Martinez	Designee for Acting Secretary of State Robert J. Rodriguez Deputy Secretary of the Office of Planning, Development and Community Infrastructure NYS Department of State

NHT STAFF

Sally Drake	Executive Director
Sarah Purcell	Deputy Director & Chief Financial Officer
Michelle Phillips-Conlen	Resource Manager
Cinzia Tschantret	Bookkeeper
Andrea Buniak	Development Associate
Brittney Desmond	Program Assistant

OTHER ATTENDEES

Jenny O'Neill	NHT Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
Bryan Erwin	Chair, Long Island State Parks Commission
Matt Davidson	Deputy Director for Resource Development, OPRHP
Jennifer Maglienti	General Counsel, OPRHP
Steven Seivold	Vice President, Wilmington Trust Investment Advisors
Janine Otis	Asst. Vice President, Wilmington Trust Investment Advisors

Briefing Materials provided for the January 28, 2022 Board of Directors (Board) meeting included:

- Agenda
- Draft minutes of October 25, 2021 Board meeting
- NHT Wilmington Trust Portfolio Performance Report
- NHT Investment Account Activity: April 1 – December 31, 2021
- NHT Banking Account Activity: April 1 – December 31, 2021
- NHT Q3 Cash Report & Balance Sheet: April 1 – December 31, 2021
- Operating Budget to Actual: April 1 – December 31, 2021

- Memo to the Board: Administrative Fee Structure
- Resolution #2022-1: Adopting FY2022-23 Budget and Multi-Year Financial Plan
- Proposed FY2022-2023 Operating Budget & Multi-Year Financial Plan
- NHT Organizational Chart & Staff Job Descriptions
- Donor and Grant Report: April 1 – December 31, 2021
- Project Account Activity Summary: April 1 – December 31, 2021

This meeting took place via recorded virtual teleconference as permitted by New York State Open Meetings Law. Commissioner Kulleseid called the January meeting of the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) to order at 2:03 p.m.

Erik Kulleseid opened with two notes regarding members of the Board:

- Following the departure of Lucy Waletzky, the Chair of the Long Island State Parks Commission, Bryan Erwin, is under consideration for Chair of State Council of Parks. In hopeful anticipation of his appointment, the Board asked him to join the call in an advisory capacity.
- Since the last meeting, Governor Hochul has nominated Robert J. Rodriguez as Secretary of State. He has continued the designation of Kisha Santiago-Martinez to serve as a delegate to the NHT Board.

Approval of October 26, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Erik Kulleseid asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2021 Board meeting.

- *Moved by Laura DiBetta, seconded by Kisha Santiago-Martinez and unanimously approved.*

Presentation from Wilmington Trust Investment Advisors

Sarah Purcell introduced Steve Seivold and Janine Otis from Wilmington Trust, the team assigned to NHT's accounts. With Steve and Janine, there have been significant new investments, considerable growth in older accounts and, most recently, the repositioning to Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) investment strategy nearly one year ago.

Steve Seivold first reported on the economy and market outlook, noting that despite some deceleration, economic growth is anticipated to remain higher than prior years. He explained that rising interest rates will impact asset classes differently so he will monitor the portfolio accordingly. Discussing the NHT portfolio, he noted that all investment accounts performed strongly and slightly above their benchmarks in the fiscal year to date. The endowment accounts in particular have shown healthy growth and the ESG strategy has provided positive momentum to the portfolio as a whole.

Steve and Janine were thanked by the Board for their report before departing the meeting.

Financial Updates

Sarah Purcell noted that the investment portfolio started the fiscal year at \$58M and had grown to \$63.4M at the end of December as a result of over \$3M in new principal invested and approximately \$2M in unrealized gains. The NHT holds nearly \$2.4M in cash with total revenue

of almost \$17M through December, which puts this fiscal year on pace to end with the most cash receipts and the highest total assets held in NHT's history.

While fiscal year's adopted operating budget recognized a potential \$200k deficit on a cash basis due to significantly lower investment income on the main management accounts, revenue is a little better than anticipated and expenditures are on target.

Sarah noted that next fiscal year's proposed budget remains the same as presented at October's meeting; no public comment was received after the budget was posted to the website, and there were no changes proposed in the budget presented for adoption. Overall, it is very similar to the current year budget with small increases in investment income – consistent with Steve's report – and salary/fringe expense due to anticipated cost of living adjustments. This cash-basis budget also continues to project a deficit that would be covered by the fund balance of \$2.3M if needed.

Finally, Sarah mentioned the multi-year projections and referenced a memorandum to the Board regarding the proposed administrative fee structure to take effect in FY2023-24. The details of the memo are in the Executive Director's report and will propose a fee on some administrative services that are currently being provided without charge.

Erik Kulleseid asked for a motion approving Resolution #2022-1: Adopting the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Annual Budget and Multi-Year Financial Plan.

- *Moved by Kisha Santiago-Martinez, seconded by Laura DiBetta and unanimously approved.*

Executive Director's Report

Sally Drake noted the NHT's growth in fiduciary funds held, and that NHT has the funds on hand to cover decades of long-term liabilities and approximately two years of operating expenses with no new revenue; the unrestricted fund balance/net position of \$2.3M could cover any operating shortfalls.

She noted the operating budget would continue to run deficits under the existing funding structure as its primary revenue source – interest on the Main Management investment accounts – remains low. While state agencies receive administrative services from the centralized and control agencies and has access to the related state-funded financial, human resources and other systems, the NHT contracts and pays for these systems and services independently. NHT also pays for its own development staff and systems.

A 5% administrative fee is proposed on most revenue and services, with a few exceptions for tiered and flat rates; this fee remains competitive as most organizations charge service fees of 10% or up to 20%. These new fees would double some of the administrative revenue and address the budget deficit. Sally stressed that the NHT only needs to adequately cover the cost of its services, not to make money, and that any surplus will directly benefit our agency partners through additional investment in development.

Finally, Sally reported on the development, programming and outreach efforts of the NHT. She noted that donations are increasing year over year with the strongest support from foundation

grants and individuals. Three major gifts were received since the last meeting: 1) a \$500,000 gift to support a stewardship fellow and a State Council of Parks program, 2) a \$250,000 grant to support the Shirley Chisholm State Park Bike Library and 3) a \$230,000 grant supporting the Niagara River Greenway Commission. Among other programmatic updates, she highlighted that the NHT launched its web pages for DEC donation programs in December and has raised over \$3,500 in the month since the launch.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Erik Kulleseid asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

- *Moved by Kisha Santiago-Martinez, seconded by Laura DiBetta and unanimously approved.*

Meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea Buniak
NHT Secretary to the Board

MINUTES OF THE NATURAL HERITAGE TRUST
BOARD MEETING
June 21, 2022

ATTENDEES:

BOARD MEMBERS

Erik Kulleseid	Commissioner NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP)
Laura DiBetta	Designee for Commissioner Basil Seggos Director of Outdoor Recreation NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
Sarah Crowell	Designee for Secretary Rossana Rosado Director of Planning, Development & Community Infrastructure NYS Department of State (DOS)

NHT STAFF

Sally Drake	Executive Director
Sarah Purcell	Deputy Director & CFO
Michelle Phillips-Conlen	Resource Manager
Andrea Buniak	Development Associate
Brittney Desmond	Program Assistant

OTHER ATTENDEES

Bryan Erwin	Chair, Long Island State Parks Commission
Jenny O'Neill	NHT Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
Matt Davidson	Deputy Director for Resource Development, OPRHP
Jennifer Maglienti	General Counsel, OPRHP
Maggie Clements	Senior Attorney, OPRHP
Frank Ferrucci	Partner, Wojeski & Company
Christopher Stevens	Manager, Wojeski & Company

Briefing Materials provided for the June 21, 2022 Board of Directors (Board) meeting included:

- Agenda
- Draft Minutes of January 28, 2022 Board Meeting
- Resolution #2022-2: Appointing Audit Committee Members
- Resolution #2022-3: Appointing Governance Committee Members
- Resolution #2022-4: Adopting 2021-22 Audited Financial Statements
- Memo to the Board: Audited Financial Statements
- Report to the Board
- Draft Audited Financial Statements
- Independent Auditor's Report

- Resolution #2022-5: Adopting NHT Banking & Investment Policy
- Resolution #2022-6: Approving FY2021-2022 Investment Report
- FY2021-2022 Investment Report
- NHT Banking & Investment Guidelines
- Investment Policy Statements
- Resolution #2022-7: Approving FY2021-2022 Procurement Report
- Resolution #2022-8: Re-Adopting NHT Procurement Guidelines
- FY2021-2022 Procurement Report
- NHT Procurement Guidelines
- FY2021-2022 Employee Report
- List of NHT Employees as of 3/31/2022
- Mission Statement & Performance Measures Report
- Resolution #2022-9: Approving FY2023-24 Administrative Fee Policy
- Administrative Fee Policy and Frequently Asked Questions
- NHT Regional Account Summaries

This meeting took place in person and via recorded virtual videoconference as permitted by New York State Open Meetings Law. Commissioner Kulleseid called the meeting of the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) to order at 1:03 p.m.

Approval of January 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Erik Kulleseid asked for a motion approving the draft minutes of the January 28, 2022 Board meeting.

- *Moved by Laura DiBetta, seconded by Sarah Crowell and unanimously approved.*

Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

Sally Drake stated that annual appointments for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Natural Heritage Trust Board of Directors (Board) are taken up at the annual meeting. She noted the willingness of Commissioner Kulleseid and Commissioner Seggos to continue their appointments as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively.

- *Moved by Sarah Crowell, seconded by Laura DiBetta and unanimously approved.*

Appointment of Audit and Governance Committees

Sally Drake then noted that the NHT intends to appoint the members of two oversight committees, the Audit Committee and the Governance Committee.

The proposed members of the Audit Committee include:

- Donna Ensign, Principal Accountant, DEC
- LuAnn Hart, Director of Financial Administration, DOS
- Laura Mason, Director of Internal Audit, OPRHP

Erik Kulleseid asked for a motion to approve Resolution #2022-2 to Appoint Audit Committee Members.

- *Moved by Laura DiBetta, seconded by Sarah Crowell and unanimously approved.*

The proposed members of the Governance Committee include:

Sarah Stern Crowell, Director, Office of Planning, Development and Community Infrastructure, DOS

Matthew Davidson, Special Assistant to the Commissioner, OPRHP

Laura DiBetta, Special Assistant to the Commissioner for Outdoor Recreation, DEC

Donna Ensign, Principal Accountant, DEC

Andy Fyfe, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, OPRHP

Erik Kulleseid asked for a motion to approve Resolution #2022-3 to Appoint Audit Committee Members.

- *Moved by Erik Kulleseid, seconded by Sarah Crowell and unanimously approved.*

Review of 2021-2022 Audit and Financial Statement

Sarah Purcell introduced Frank Ferrucci and Chris Stephens of Wojeski & Company CPAs. This is the firm's third year in the contract, which can be extended annually for up to two more years. Chris Stephens has been on the team for several years and Frank Ferrucci joined at the beginning of the contract.

Frank Ferrucci began by reviewing their Report to the Board, a required audit communication. He noted that no new accounting policies were adopted in the fiscal year, nor had any existing policies changed. As in the past, it was important to highlight that three estimates have a significant impact on the financial statements: the fair market value of investments, the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) liability and the net pension liability. The liabilities are actuarially determined, but Wojeski & Company reviews these assumptions to ensure they are reasonable.

Finally, he brought the Board's attention to a new paragraph in the report that requires auditors to review the organization's annual report and reports submitted in the Public Authorities Reporting Information System (PARIS) for any material inconsistencies. He closed by noting that Wojeski & Company issued a "clean opinion" for the NHT financial statements, the highest level of assurance.

Chris Stephens then went on to review the NHT's Audit and Financial Statements. This report summarized:

- Organization and significant accounting policies
- Statement of Net Position
- Statement of Cash Flows
- Statement of Fiduciary Fund Revenue and Expenses
- Statement of Fiduciary Net Position
- Required Supplemental Information related to Other postemployment benefits (OPEB) and Pension obligations liabilities and NHT Operating Budget

Wojeski & Company concluded that the NHT financials were fairly stated in their opinion with no material deficiencies or weaknesses, and compliant with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Frank Ferrucci stated that the final report was a review of NHT's

compliance with its investment policies. They concluded that from the review that in their opinion, the NHT was in compliance its investment policies.

Erik Kulleseid asked for a motion to approve Resolution #2022-4 Adopting the 2021-2022 Audited Financial Statement.

- *Moved by Laura DiBetta, seconded by Sarah Crowell and unanimously approved.*

After their report, Frank Ferrucci and Chris Stephens exited the meeting.

Deputy Director & CFO Report

Sarah Purcell summarized the information presented by Wojeski & Company:

- The total assets of the NHT have increased for the 10th consecutive year. Fiduciary funds managed reached \$61.2M, of which \$34.5M are endowments.
- At \$21.2M, the NHT brought in more revenue this year than any other year in the organization's 54-year history. This is mostly attributable to private grants and gifts.
- Organizational liabilities related to net pension decreased significantly, but as there is a one-year lag in those reports. Because it is closely tied with market performance this will likely edge up next fiscal year.
- There were unrealized losses on fixed income investments, but overall the NHT remains in a solid financial position.

Sarah then reminded the Board that the NHT submits several reports with the Authority Budget Office and the NYS Office of the State Comptroller annually. First, she discussed the investment report, which includes the investment policy statement and summaries of the both the banking and investment activity and any policy changes throughout the fiscal year. The full report was included with the Board materials, but Sarah highlighted several key points:

- In FY 2021-2022, about \$21.2M in revenue was received, approximately \$16M was expended and cash balances at year end were around \$5.2M.
- All 20 investments accounts performed strongly until the equity and bond market sell-off in the fourth quarter. All investment strategies except the fixed income marginally outperformed their related benchmarks.
- Over \$1M was distributed from the endowment accounts.

Erik Kulleseid asked for a motion to approve Resolutions #2022-5 Approving the 2021-2022 Investment Report and #2022-6 Re-Adopting the NHT Banking and Investment Policy.

- *Moved by Sarah Crowell, seconded by Laura DiBetta and unanimously approved.*

Sarah then shifted to the procurement report, which includes vendors paid \$5,000 or more annually; a list of these vendors was provided to the Board. These expenditures, totaling about \$11.6M, were largely spent on a variety of equipment, supplies and materials for stewardship, conservation, public programming, events, recreation and projects. Sarah reminded the board that the NHT Administrative Office reviews procurement for compliance to guidelines, but that the regional offices are responsible for doing the procurements.

Erik Kulleseid asked for a motion to approve Resolution #2022-7 Adopting the NHT 2021-2022 Procurement Report.

- *Moved by Sarah Crowell, seconded by Laura DiBetta and unanimously approved.*

Erik Kulleseid then asked for a motion to approve Resolution #2022-8 Re-Adopting the Procurement Guidelines.

- *Moved by Laura DiBetta, seconded by Sarah Crowell and unanimously approved.*

Finally, Sarah referred to the employee report that includes all employee names, titles and wages paid throughout the fiscal year. As of March 31, 2022, the NHT had 57 employees on payroll, who are mostly program staff. About one-third of NHT program staff deal with stewardship, another one-third focus on shoreline protection, and the remainder for historic preservation and access and inclusion initiatives.

While the total number of program staff positions remained relatively constant throughout the year, 20 new staff members were on-boarded and 22 staff members were off-boarded. Turnover of full-time project staff positions was about 20%, which is much more than usual; as the hiring freeze for state agencies was lifted, opportunities arose for some program staff to be hired into agency positions.

Executive Director's Report

Sally Drake then referred to the performance measures report, another required annual report, which was included in the Board materials. She focused on the two major goals from the organization's mission: to increase public awareness of the NHT's existence through promotional materials and to use the NHT's nonprofit status and ability to accept restricted gifts to increase donation potential.

Sally then highlighted a new report included in the Board materials. The Financial Summary is split by agency and region, providing an annual summary of revenue and expenses by category, a five-year trend, donor statistics and a summary of regional features on the NHT's social media and website. In the full year since the new NHT website was launched, it has attracted 9,600 unique visitors from 49 states and Canada. Over \$47,000 in donations were collected through the site.

Moving to the Administrative Fee Policy, Sally noted that the policy aims to meet three goals:

- 1) Respond to the growth in number and complexity of services provided by the NHT to its agency partners,
- 2) Adapt to changing economic factors that impact the NHT operating budget, and
- 3) Provide a transparent and consistent policy.

The policy was discussed at the January meeting and conversations continued with partner agencies through 2022 with a Frequently Asked Questions document circulated and updated as needed. She noted that the policy will be approved by the Board annually.

Erik Kulleseid then asked for a motion to approve Resolution #2022-9 Approving the FY2023-2024 Administrative Fee Policy.

- *Moved by Sarah Crowell, seconded by Laura DiBetta and unanimously approved.*

Finally, Sally highlighted ongoing projects and programs:

- The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation granted \$5.47M designated for trail connectivity in Western New York and the Southern Tier, which will impact Allegany State Park, Artpark and the Genesee Valley Greenway. This is part of their \$22.8M total investment.
- The NHT is a new partner in the joint-agency Nature Bus program in the Capital District, furthering the organizational goal of promoting access and inclusion.
- Ladders to the Outdoors continues to expand, with a new Central New York program launching in Green Lakes State Park and a pilot program in Harriman State Park Preserve.
- The Annual Report of the NHT was provided to the Board for comment and will be finalized by month-end. These will be used in direct mailing as the donor database is analyzed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Erik Kulleseid asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

- *Moved by Laura DiBetta, seconded by Sarah Crowell and unanimously approved.*

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea Buniak
NHT Secretary to the Board

MINUTES OF THE NATURAL HERITAGE TRUST
BOARD MEETING
October 26, 2022

ATTENDEES:

BOARD MEMBERS

Erik Kulleseid	Commissioner NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP)
Laura DiBetta	Designee for Commissioner Basil Seggos Director of Outdoor Recreation NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
Sarah Crowell	Designee for Secretary Robert Rodriguez Director of Planning, Development & Community Infrastructure NYS Department of State (DOS)

NHT STAFF

Sally Drake	Executive Director
Sarah Purcell	Deputy Director & CFO
Michelle Phillips-Conlen	Resource Manager
Cinzia Tschatret	Bookkeeper & A/P
Andrea Buniak	Development Associate
Brittney Desmond	Program Assistant
Megan Haggerty	State Council of Parks Coordinator

OTHER ATTENDEES

Bryan Erwin	Chair, Long Island State Parks Commission
Jenny O'Neill	NHT Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
Matt Davidson	Deputy Director for Resource Development, OPRHP

Briefing Materials provided for the October 26, 2022 Board of Directors (Board) meeting included:

- Agenda
- Draft Minutes of June 21, 2022 Board Meeting
- Memo to the Board: Board Training Compliance
- Governance Committee Minutes: September 23, 2022
- Governance Committee Charter
- NHT Investment Account Activity
- NHT Balance Sheet
- FY 2022-23 Operating Budget to Actual
- FY 2022-23 Operating Budget Projected
- Resolution #2022-10: Approving FY 2023-24 Preliminary Budget Plan

- FY 2023-24 Proposed Budget and Multi-Year Financial Plan
- Memo to the Board: NHT Administrative Staff Salaries
- NHT Employee Salary Procedure
- NHT Administrative Staff Job Descriptions
- Regional Donation Report: April 1 – September 30, 2022
- Project Account Activity: April 1 – September 30, 2022

This meeting took place in person and via recorded virtual videoconference as permitted by New York State Open Meetings Law. Commissioner Kulleseid called the meeting of the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) to order at 12:34 p.m.

Approval of June 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Erik Kulleseid asked for a motion approving the draft minutes of the June 21, 2022 Board meeting.

- *Moved by Laura DiBetta, seconded by Sarah Crowell and unanimously approved.*

Governance Committee Update

Erik Kulleseid then introduced Matthew Davidson, the new chair of the Governance Committee. Matt began by noting that the Committee reviewed, updated and approved a new Committee charter and officially selected a chair. He then communicated the Committee’s recommendations for the Board:

- Ensure compliance with the Public Authorities Budget Office (ABO) guidance that Board members/designees should take the ABO Board Member Training, with suggested renewals every three years
- Confirm that all Board members/designees have signed the one-time Acknowledgement of Fiduciary Responsibility
- The Board complete annual Board Evaluations

Matt asked that all Board members/designees confirm their compliance with the NHT Administrative Office and complete any outstanding tasks before the next Board meeting in January 2023. He noted that the Committee will continue to review and advise on NHT policies moving forward.

Deputy Director & CFO Report

Sarah Purcell then moved into her report of investment account activity. While everyone is aware of the current conditions, she noted that capital and financial markets continue to experience a very difficult period. The endowments have the highest equity exposure in the portfolio and have been the hardest hit. The fixed income portfolio has also seen a drop in value, but the income returns have increased significantly due to the pace of interest rate increases put forth by the Federal Reserve Bank. She noted the Wilmington Trust Investment Advisors team will attend the January 2023 meeting to provide a market update and portfolio performance review.

Moving to the current year budget, Sarah noted that revenue is currently at 39.8% of the revenue targets and expenses are at roughly 50%; both in line with budget. Updated projections are showing that the deficit will likely be about \$45,000 less than originally budgeted.

Sarah then reminded the Board of the budget approval process. NHT management prepares a preliminary budget to the Board in October, and if approved, will make it available for public comment. The Board will be notified of any comment or significant revisions to forecasts, and the budget will be presented again to the Board for adoption in January. The Budget is also submitted to the ABO and Comptroller and will take effect April 1, 2023.

She then noted that the largest portion of the administrative budget is the NHT Administrative Office staffing costs, which has remained relatively flat for several years, but proposes an increase in this budget. The proposed budget projects a 54% increase in revenue due to the new administrative fees that will take effect in the upcoming fiscal year, and the increased expenditures (+24%) account for a new position to assist with the increased services NHT provides to its partners. Even with a spending increase, a budget surplus is still projected. She also reminded the Board the Budget was reduced 10% in 2020. The 2023-24 Budget positions NHT back to pre-COVID levels, plus inflation. Sarah then referred to revenue and expenditure detail included in the briefing materials to provide additional clarity on the budgeted numbers and projections.

Moving to the multi-year projections, Sarah highlighted a surplus in the out years as well. She noted that the Board may discuss how to manage the projected surplus, considering additional NHT staff or a Board-led initiative moving forward.

Erik Kulleseid asked for a motion to approve Resolution #2022-10 Approving Preliminary FY2023-24 Operating Budget and Multi-Year Plan.

- *Moved by Sarah Crowell, seconded by Laura DiBetta and unanimously approved.*

Executive Director's Report

Sally Drake reported on the donations received, noting that \$6.3M has been raised to date this fiscal year. Despite the large Wilson Foundation grant, this number is still larger than past years as the organization continues to do well with foundations and grants. Online donations accounted for over \$23,000 in this period, marking a 92% increase in the number of online donors since the new website launched in June 2021.

Sally then highlighted a new program with ReserveAmerica that allows people making reservations at New York State Parks or DEC sites to “round up” their reservation cost, as a donation to the NHT to support camping programs and projects. The program launched in August and in just six weeks has brought in over 5,500 round-up donations totaling over \$16,000. These funds are being held in NHT accounts for Parks and DEC, and as they grow, the program managers will determine how to best use them.

The NHT received several new grants in the last quarter. First, in partnership with the Central Region Commission and staff, the Central New York (CNY) chapter of the Ladders to the Outdoors program received a total of \$75,000 from the CNY Community Foundation and the Gifford Foundation to start the program in the spring. Additionally, the Northern Borders Commission continued its grant funding for several more years to promote multi-agency outdoor recreation programs.

Sally then highlighted new program staff positions supported by the NHT, including the newly-hired Lucy Waletzky Environmental Stewardship Fellow and the Native American History Interpreter. Both positions are mission aligned for both the agency and NHT as Parks heads into its centennial and promotes its Outdoors for All initiative.

Finally, she noted that the NHT has been partnering closely with Parks and the State Council of Parks on their Centennial campaign in 2024. As a group, they are working toward a “next century fund” to harness support for parks, sites and programs.

Other Business

Sally Drake reminded the Board that their next meeting will be in January 2023. Because the Executive Orders permitting videoconferencing will no longer be in effect, the Board will have to adopt a mechanism for remote attendance by resolution after a public hearing.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Erik Kulleseid asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

- *Moved by Laura DiBetta, seconded by Sarah Crowell and unanimously approved.*

Meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea Buniak
NHT Secretary to the Board