

**Dissolving The Ulster County Railroad Advisory Committee And  
Creating The Ulster & Delaware Railroad Corridor Advisory  
Committee – Ulster County Legislature**

Referred to: The Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning and Transit Committee (Chairman Briggs and Legislators Allen, Archer, Bartels, Litts, Maio, and Maloney)

Legislator Ken J. Ronk, Jr. offers the following:

WHEREAS, in it's heyday, the Ulster & Development Railroad (U&D) ran from Kingston Point to Oneonta, passing through four counties (Ulster, Delaware, Schoharie and Otsego); and

WHEREAS, the U&D once delivered visitors to stops along it's route and maintained the economy for many hotels and tourist destinations as well as the local region; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, Ulster County purchased the former U&D Railroad for one and a half million dollars with the State reimbursing the purchase price following the adoption of the Cambridge Seven Associates report and recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the 1981 Cambridge Seven Associates report noted the corridor would connect "hiking trails, bicycling paths, special calendar events and other outdoor activities"; and

WHEREAS, for several decades, the Ulster County Legislature have continued to encourage efforts to develop this railroad corridor; and

WHEREAS, the long-term economic success in these efforts warrants more exhaustive public examination and study to establish a lasting plan for the full U&D corridor located within Ulster County boundaries; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Ulster County Charter Section C-16 and the Administrative Code Section A2-11: *"Advisory committees, commissions and boards. Members of all citizens' committees, commissions and boards appointed pursuant to § C-11K of the Charter shall serve at the pleasure of the County Legislature. They shall serve without compensation other than for actual and necessary expenses within appropriations made therefor, unless otherwise provided by resolution of the County Legislature. The Chairman of the County Legislature shall be a member ex-officio of all such committees, commissions and boards;"* and

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WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 70 of 1985, the Railroad Advisory Committee was established and re-established pursuant to Resolution No. 127 of 2010 for the purpose of continuing the on-going efforts of the previous Railroad Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, as evident in the dissolution of the Catskill Gateway Advisory Council to establish the Railroad Advisory Committee pursuant to Resolution No. 70 of 1985, changes to the process of obtaining the advice of citizens is necessary when community priorities modify; and

WHEREAS, that the Ulster County Legislature remains committed to not only, the development of the U&D railroad corridor, but also the development of a long term plan based on the advice and input from citizens of Ulster County; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Railroad Advisory Committee shall be dissolved and re-established as the U&D Railroad Corridor Advisory Committee for the purposes of:

- a) conducting an exhaustive examination and study on the economic viability of the U&D Railroad Corridor; and
- b) to serve as the County's entity responsible for appraisal of proposed development or contracts related to the county-owned U&D property; and
- c) to present any recommendations regarding said proposed development or contracts to the Ulster County Legislature; and
- d) to assume any responsibility given to the former Ulster County Railroad Advisory Committee per existing lease agreements; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the membership of the U&D Railroad Corridor Advisory Committee shall be comprised of the following members for a term commencing March 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015:

- 1) Mary Wawro (District 1 – Town of Saugerties);
- 2) David Donaldson, (District 6– City of Kingston);
- 3) Ken J. Ronk, Jr. (District 13 – Town of Shawangunk) \*Chairman;
- 4) Richard A. Parete (District 18 – Towns of Hurley and Marbletown);
- 5) Manna Jo Greene (District 19 – Towns of Marbletown and Rosendale);

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and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature shall appoint future members of the U&D Railroad Corridor Advisory Committee for two-year terms; and, be it further

RESOLVED, after consultation with and approval of the County Executive, the U&D Railroad Corridor Advisory Committee will seek input from the Department of Planning, the Department of Environment, the Trails Advisory Council, and the Environmental Management Council; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive may appoint staff from the Executive branch of government to assist the U&D Railroad Corridor Advisory Committee in its work,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

Postponed in Committee: Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning, and Transit on March 11, 2015

Passed Committee: Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning, and Transit on \_\_\_\_\_.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

NONE