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Erie Canalway News Release

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Judy Schmidt-Dean to Lead Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission

WATERFORD, NY- The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission recently elected Judy Schmidt-Dean as its new Commission Chair. Schmidt-Dean, who owns and manages the Schuyler Yacht Basin and RV Park on the Champlain Canal in Schuylerville, has served on the commission since 2002. She will serve as chair for a one year term. Schmidt-Dean replaces outgoing chairman Joseph Callahan, who served since 2008.

According to Schmidt-Dean: “Twenty-four years of business along the canal has given me a unique perspective of past, present and future along the waterway. Today, partnerships forged among federal, state, and local agencies and organizations are unprecedented and leading us into a new century of canal revitalization. I am honored to serve as chair of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission.”

Schmidt-Dean has long record of community service and advocacy for the canal system. In addition to serving as an Erie Canalway Commissioner, she is a board member and secretary for Canal New York Marketing and Business Alliance. Her long-standing dedication to improving and promoting the New York State Canal System earned her the “Spirit of the Canal” Award from the Canal Society of NYS in 2008.

The 27-member Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission includes heads of involved state agencies, and community leaders recommended by the governor, senators, and congressional representatives for their expertise in such fields as tourism, law, planning, and historic preservation.

Other commission officers re-elected were: Vice Chair Russ Andrews of Syracuse, Secretary Alan Vincent of Little Falls, and Treasurer Peter Welsby of Lockport.

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Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor preserves and interprets the New York State canal system which has been in continuous operation from 1825 until today – longer than any other constructed transportation system on the continent. It is federally designated as nationally significant for its cultural and natural heritage and its collection of sites are operated, owned, or managed by a variety of local municipalities, state agencies, and federal entities. A federal commission provides oversight for the Corridor.

For more information, visit www.eriecanalway.org.