

The Group

Mt. Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd, Pleasantville NY
Meeting at the Library, Friday Nov. 22nd, 2019, at 10:30 a.m.

Bear Mountain & the Bridges of the Hudson River ***Harry Stanton, Commissioner, NYS Bridge Authority***

When the Bear Mountain Bridge opened in 1924 it was the longest suspension bridge in the world, the first large bridge built specifically to carry automobiles and the first to rely on auto tolls to pay for its construction. It also opened the floodgates on an era of American bridge construction.

On November 22nd we will take a look at the history of the Hudson River and its importance during the American Revolution. We will focus in on one of the narrowest and deepest points along the river – at Bear Mountain – and we will discuss the role it played in the young nation’s first years. Then we will fast forward almost 150 years to discuss the building of what was then the world’s longest suspension bridge, at the same site, and the impact that bridge had on both the construction of future bridges, across the Hudson and across the continent.

We will take a look at each of the massive structures that now cross the Hudson between Manhattan and Albany and take a peek at some of the planning, design and construction idiosyncrasies that contribute to each bridge’s “personality.”

Our guest will be Harry Stanton. He is a member of the board of the New York State Bridge Authority, where he was Executive Director for 12 years. In 40 years working for various transportation agencies he negotiated airline access agreements for the Westchester County Airport, managed operating contracts for the Bee-Line bus system, worked on an MTA Management Reorganization Study and loaded cargo at the Brooklyn Army Terminal.

Mr. Stanton is an attorney and a former journalist for the Associated Press.

Please join us for luncheon with Harry at the newly designated Pleasantville Manor at the Pleasantville Country Club following the meeting

We are grateful to the Friends of the Mt. Pleasant Public Library for their co-sponsorship of our lecture series.

Thank you!