

## **COMMITTEE NOTES**

**Town of Hillsdale**

**Economic Development Com**

**February 23, 2022**

Meeting called to order at 11:02 am

### **Members Elected/Appointed & Present via Zoom Meeting**

Tom Carty, Chair & Town Councilperson

Howard Van Lenten, Member

Joanna Virello, Member & Town Councilperson

Tod Wohlfarth, Secretary

Matthew White, Member

### **Members absent**

### **Guests in Attendance**

Dana Bowen

Nadia

### **Approval of notes**

Motion to approve notes from December - Approved

## **- CURRENT BUSINESS -**

### **Prospective New Members**

Dana Bowen- Been in Millerton for years. Recently bought Sylvan Lodge. Interested in helping.

Nadia Somerset - Family in Chatham. Now on Labranche Road.

Discussion about comprehensive plan and potential for more improvement

### **Social Media - Joanna & Tod**

Town Board motioned to make Joanna head of communications

Elizabeth Sheer in the loop

Started instagram page Town of Hillsdale NY

HeyHillsdale to remain as an unofficial booster page

### **New Town Seal on Business System & vehicles - Joanna & Tod**

Final business card

### **Hillsdale Civic Pride Fundraising - Tod & Joanna**

Need to promote - include in newsletter

**Hamlet Cmte. - Tom C & Toby**

Review of the grant proposal. \$1M grant was denied. Economic justice portion wasn't handled well. Water drainage issue wasn't big enough to be considered. We were in the bottom third of all the applicants.

**Historic Cmte. - Tom**

Need to restart this group.

**Housing Cmte. - Ellen Levy, Janis Smythe & Tom**

Early March meeting. Waiting to hear back from Four Brothers about a possible project.

**Roe Jan Workforce Housing Cmte. - Matt**

There is no government help for this at all. Chris K has been "chairing" them. Unless there are zoning changes in town, it's unlikely we will have any significant workforce housing.

Hoping to convince towns to revisit their zoning rules to develop solutions. Tod suggested looking at Real Estate Transfer Tax as a way of funding development. Ulster and other counties have this. Any property over X amount is taxed and the fund is used for open space retention and the like. Perhaps it can be used for workforce housing development?

**Safe at Home - Joyce Lapenn**

Meeting this month

**New "Projects" Committee**

No update

**Grant Projects (alphabetical)**

Culvert Replacements - No update

Hamlet Park Renovation - Seeing what we can do better next time.

Sidewalks- They met and all came to consensus about where sidewalks would be. Now just have to get a grant.

Salt Shed- Need new engineer

Town Hall repointing- Need to get estimates

West End Bridge- Waiting on deadline

Whippoorwill Rd- No update right now

### **Lightpoles**

No update

### **LED Lights**

Postponed until May or June

### **Mural- Tod & Matt**

Setting up meeting w Chuck. Still waiting.

### **Welcome to Hillsdale Page- Joanna**

Working on this still.

### **Rail Trail Sign - Tod**

DOT denied request to add to RJBC sign on 22. They said that the HVRTA would have to request it as part of their program. Tod is looping in Bart Ziegler as he is on the HVRTA board.

### **E-Code 360 - Tom**

Completed and passed. It will be up and published within the week.

### **Get Involved Campaign - Tod & Mary Barbato**

Working on this for 2022. Tabling at events. Probably once a month at Farmer's market. Mary Barbato interested in helping.

### **Clean-up Day**

Need to set day at next meeting.

Need to set day in spring. Focus on entrance signs, gardens, historic hamlet signs, etc.

Entrance Signs

Need to wash and repaint in the spring

### **Eastern Entrance Sign- Tod & Dana**

Tod to look at project again. See if there is a good location we could approach a friendly property owner. Dana and Tod in discussions with property owner.

### **Website maintenance & updates - Tod**

Going to review with stakeholders and some residents that use it a lot, solicit ideas for improvement and then speak with Town Web about updates. We are due for an update in July so want to be prepared.

### **- NEW BUSINESS -**

### **Green River & Harlemville welcome signs - Tod**

Tod emailed Bart & Toby regarding signage. Not sure Hamlet Cmte. is appropriate or not. If not, the EDC should probably just press forward.

## **Town Newsletter & Meeting publication - Tod & Mary Barbato**

Hoping to increase participation in town committees and meetings. Mary recommended printing out newsletters and posting them around town, maybe even mailing. Tod spoke with Supervisor Kersten and he was in favor. Budget for mailing is a non-starter for this year, but perhaps we can start a pilot program and see how it goes. Increase mailing a little along with posting printed versions around town. The newsletter includes town meetings, links and such, so that should help.

## **- FUTURE BUSINESS -**

### **Walking Tour Development - ON HOLD**

Talking about having a walk-through again to identify places in the hamlet for self-guided historic walking tour. Ryan has 10 bldgs on it so far. Chris Atkins has existing one for toll house.

Suggestion Cullen Park, Main Street and down Anthony Street.

(Tod reviewed Chris Atkins version after meeting. It's really not that great. He had another option but again, not great. Tod set up a custom google map to consider. It lacks audio, but that's probably ok. It can include images and a description of the building and such. The other option is google earth, but not sure that this would suffice as that isn't a common app people have although we could tell people to download and how to find the tour. Many of the tours are virtual, but there is a whole tutorial on how to make walking tours...still reviewing)

### **Business District sign - ON HOLD**

Discussion about creating a more elaborate garden surrounding monument and maintaining it in exchange for a "Welcome to the Historic Hamlet of Hillsdale" with arrow to historic district and EAT \* SHOP \* STAY \* RAIL TRAIL or something like that.

Hillsdale Town Center

EAT \* SHOP \* STAY \* RAIL TRAIL

Any landscaping would be done through Hamlet Cmte. Via Lynda Brenner. Would be a good item to put on the Hillsdale Pride fundraising page.

Matt & Tod to continue discussion

### **Sewer & Waste Water - ON HOLD**

Previous notes - Should this be removed?

\$2.4M Grants and 0% loans (current district is loan like that)

Part of the equipment at the current plant was incorrectly put in place. Resulted in really wild flow reports. That's been corrected so flow is much better than it was. But if we want to expand business district and encourage infill housing, we need to expand or add new district.

Next step is Victor is trying to find funding. We have engineering reports about flows and such. The question is do we go for district 2 or do we optimize and expand the current district. 100+ properties in sewer district. There are 60 some in district, 20 properties share a tank, so there are 3 tanks or so. Most of Cold Water isn't, bottom of Anthony, etc. We could expand the current district but we may need a new district to get all covered.

**Meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm**

**Next Meeting Wednesday, March 23 at 11am via Zoom**

**Mission of the Economic Development Committee**

The mission of the Economic Development Committee is to promote Hillsdale as a dynamic environment in which to do business. The Committee will pursue its mission by helping to implement the goals of the Comprehensive Plan and the Hillsdale Branding and Marketing Plan.