

## **COMMITTEE NOTES**

**Town of Hillsdale**

**Economic Development Com**

**March 23, 2022**

Meeting called to order at 11:01 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

Dana Bowen, New Member

### **Members absent**

### **Guests in Attendance**

### **Approval of notes**

Motion to approve notes from February - Approved

### **- CURRENT BUSINESS -**

### **Prospective New Members**

Dana Bowen- Approved by the board. Nadia doesn't have time, sent her regrets.

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

Minor social media update, new roe jan park instagram

Going to work on putting committee meeting times up on insta, etc.

### **Website - Tod & Joanna**

Website update: Joanna, Tod & Elizabeth to pull together updates for website. Difficulty with search engine, mobilization, etc.

Clean Energy page: Howard working on content for sustainability

Welcome to Hillsdale page: Joanna working on it

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

Send digital file to Joanna for business system

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

Need to promote - include in newsletter

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

No update

**Clean Energy - Howard**

Now called Climate Smart Community

Inventorizing everything the town has done to mitigate climate change: benchmarking energy usage, solar, charging, etc.

New project that is coming: pass a resolution on the idea of community solar. Identify 2 projects in the state already running. Town gets \$100 per sign up, so does the resident, and some reduction in energy pricing.

**Historic Cmte. - Tom**

No update

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

No update

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

No update

**Safe at Home - Joyce Lapenn**

Going for Berkshire-Taconic grant again

**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**

Matt met with Chuck and Laurie. Very excited, they are going to be repainting and replanting. Open to paving up to the corner of the building. Meeting with Jane about designing the map. 10' x 16' wide. Discussion about artwork and small directory.

## **Rail Trail Sign - Tod**

This is in Bart Ziegler's lap now. The HVRTA.

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

Up and running

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

Article in newsletter about committees and such. Will try and adapt a tri-fold brochure, distribute locally including Farmer's Market and events. Table at events.

## **Clean-up Day**

May 7th date set

Need to look at entrance poles closely.

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

Dana to speak with property owners.

## **- 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.

### **Workshop Experience - Matt**

Coming again this year. Weekend of May 7th and 8th. Nobletown Fiber to take part.

## **- 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 12:02 pm**

**Next Meeting Wednesday, April 27 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.