

## **Notes of Hillsdale Hamlet Committee Meeting**

**Monday, January 10, 2020, 6:00 to 7:00 PM**

**Via Zoom**

Present: Toby Butterfield (Chair), Margaret Avenia, Rob Bradley, Tom Carty, Jason Durant, Phyllis Granat, Gaye Hoffman, Shannon May,

Apologies: Garrin Benfield, Lisa Berman, Lynda Brenner, Bart Ziegler

Not Present: Paul Amash Jr.

1. Minutes, New Members: The Committee approved the notes of the December meeting, previously circulated. Toby introduced new Committee Member Robina Ward.

2. Committee Secretary: No secretary has been appointed to date. In the absence of any nominees, Toby will continue to share the preparation of meeting notes.

3. Hamlet Park Planning: Shannon reported that unfortunately the Town did not win either of its two recent grant applications to fund Hamlet Park renovations. She will report back once there is more news as to why the applications did not succeed once she has met with Victor Cornelius about that issue. She recommended waiting for Victor's analysis and recommendations before we determine next steps.

4. Report re Sidewalk Renovations: Gaye reported on developments concerning the proposed renovation and expansion of sidewalks on Anthony, Coldwater and Maple Streets. The working group – Chris Kersten, Robina Ward, Bart, Gaye, Sharon Flitterman King and Steve Bluestone – met with the engineering firm to discuss current proposals. That group decided against adding sidewalks on the east and north sides of Anthony Street; against adding sidewalks on one side of Coldwater Street, except at the top of the hill, where drainage is an issue; and against adding sidewalks on Maple Street, and instead just working on cleaning up the culverts. Toby suggested it would be useful to add sidewalks on the west side of Maple St at the north end, where cars will parallel park when attending events in Hamlet Park. We will hear more after further meetings have taken place and the engineers have reported back.

5. Report re Traffic Speed Limit Issues: Toby reported that he and Lisa attended Sheriff Krapf's swearing in, and that Lisa is following up with him to ask what improvements he can make to his office's enforcement of speed limits in the vicinity of the Hillsdale substation. Lisa also met with Robina to discuss the possibility of creating a petition to the NYS DoT from citizens in the Hamlet seeking reductions in speed limits, particularly on Anthony Street (which the NYS DoT controls), and on portions of Routes 22 and 23 near where they intersect. Everyone was in favor. Phyllis also recommended asking the Town Board to take action too. Toby will report to the Town Board without going into

details of the petition or other similar proposals yet, to allow time for Lisa, Robina and whoever else wants to get involved to develop a more specific proposal for the content of a petition. This may also develop into a project of documenting the increased noise, pollution, speeding, traffic, population and numbers of pedestrians in this area of the Town, to help convince NYS DoT to help safeguard Hamlet residents and visitors.

6. Report re proposed eastern "Welcome to Hillsdale" sign: There are no positive developments yet on the proposed sign seen entering town from the east. A sign on private property at the intersection of Mitchell Street and Route 23 seems impossible, as the new owner of the land does not agree to host one. The board of the Eastgate Tollhouse organization are not in favor either. Bart and Toby will look for an alternative site. Margaret is seeking a better quote for the cost of the sign from her contact.

7. News re Crossroads: The group expressed disappointment at the news that Crossroads is closing, expressed concern at the number of restaurants and similar establishments in the area which have closed in recent years or are currently for sale. Jason encouraged the Town to take more affirmative steps to attract investors and entrepreneurs to the area, in the hope that they will bring, create or grow food service businesses here. Tom will review the issue with the Economic Development Committee; Toby will participate in such a meeting. Margaret said there are many such businesses wishing to move to the area. Margaret said there are many such businesses wishing to move to the area. Toby encouraged the Committee to think of other measured steps we could take to Foster success for such businesses.

10. Adjournment: There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7 PM. The next meeting will be held via Zoom on Monday, February 7 at 6 PM.