

Notes of Hillsdale Hamlet Committee Meeting

Monday, February 7, 2020, 6:00 to 7:00 PM

Via Zoom

Present: Toby Butterfield (Chair), Lisa Berman, Lynda Brenner, Rob Bradley, Tom Carty, Jason Durant, Phyllis Granat, Gaye Hoffman, Robina Ward, Bart Ziegler.

Apologies: Paul Amash Jr., Garrin Benfield, Shannon May.

Not present: Margaret Avenia.

1. Minutes, New Members: The Committee had no corrections to the previously circulated notes of the January meeting.

2. Committee Budget Issues: Toby reported that the Committee's \$750 budget for 2021 from the Town of Hillsdale went unspent because reimbursements were not charged against it, despite requests when committee members submitted reimbursement forms. Tom Cart kindly promised to look into it. Gaye queried why there was a deduction of \$2,000 from the account for the Hillsdale Car Show maintained by HECDC. Tom promised to look into and to provide answers on both issues within two weeks. Phyllis and others expressed surprise and unhappiness over the way the Committee's funds have been used. Committee members and others made donations to HECDC for the benefit of Hamlet Park, not to cover reimbursements that should have come from the \$750 allocated by the Town of Hillsdale to the Hamlet Committee.

3. Upcoming Planning Board Meeting: Toby reported that the Planning Board will meet next Monday February 14 at 7:30 pm in person and via Zoom with Dan Levy, who is planning a multi-use development of commercial and small residential rental units on the vacant lot he purchased on the north side of Route 23 in the hamlet. Toby said all are welcome to attend. Bart reminded all present that such a development in that location was recommended and incorporated in the town's Comprehensive Plan as long as 10 years ago. Bart also suggested that once there is some detail as to what is proposed, the Committee should perhaps submit an agreed statement to the Planning Board. Toby will remind the Planning Board of the design guidelines attached to the Comprehensive Plan, but reminded the committee that resolution of issues such as the total number of units, water supply, septic and parking are for the Planning Board, not this Committee, to review and approve.

4. Report re Traffic Speed Limit Issues: Lisa reported on her conversations with Sheriff Krapf and the lieutenant who uses Hillsdale substation, and her follow up with some of the local deputies. Lisa said a radar detector will be installed temporarily, and that the

Sherriff's office has committed to increased enforcement of the speed limit in the hamlet. She will also talk to the State Troopers office about increasing enforcement in the hamlet, which members of the committee reported does happen from time to time, but not as frequently as it does on Route 7A in front of the Taconic Hill schools. Phyllis will share with Lisa contact information for the deputies, for further follow up. The group thanked Lisa for her initiative, and tabled further discussion of other proposals or petitions for changes in speed limits, pending assessment of the effect of increased speed limit enforcement and ticketing.

5. Report re Sidewalk Renovations: Bart reported on developments concerning the proposed renovation and expansion of sidewalks on Anthony, Coldwater and Maple Streets, and shared the current revised plan via email after the meeting. The revised plan as described in the meeting met with general approval from those present. Issues raised included whether to seek Copake's extension of a sidewalk beyond Roe Jan Brewing Co to the current end of the rail trail; whether the Town would avoid adding a parking space in the area at the bottom of the wooden ramp between IGA and the liquor store, which is currently open for pedestrian use. Bart reported the next step is public hearings.

6. "Jams in the Hamlet": Jason reported on plans for this year's "Jams in the Hamlet" concert series, which will consist of ...

7. Adjournment: There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM. The next meeting will be held via Zoom on Monday, March 14 at 6 PM.