

Hamlet Committee notes for Jan. 11, 2025, meeting

Attendance: Supervisor Mike Dvorchak, Committee Chair Shannon Bell, Tom Carty, Tim Stookesberry, Alfred Tessier and Bart Ziegler

1. Recap of the holiday tree lighting event:

The committee judged it a success. Over 100 people attended. The town's stores were pleased.

The committee discussed possible improvements for next year's celebration, including shutting off Anthony Street to vehicles to allow more space for attendees, asking Roe Jan Brewery to be involved as well as other sources of food and drink, and look into additional performers beyond the brass quintet.

Moreover, to get the attendees more involved the committee discussed inviting the public to put the balls and other decorations on the trees rather than committee members doing so beforehand.

2. Hamlet Park

Findings from the survey about Hamlet Park improvements were discussed. About 90 people responded.

When asked what activities they would like in the park, 72% had strong or moderate interest in pickleball while 59% had strong or moderate interest in basketball. An additional 88% said they would like parking improvements.

Based on this response, as well as that from a similar poll the Hamlet Committee conducted four years ago, and combined with the Hamlet Park redesign plan created for the town by the professional landscape design firm Chazen/LaBella, the Hamlet Committee recommended that the Town Board pursue the following:

A. Completely rebuild the existing basketball court, whose surface is badly cracked and pitted. A professional-grade final surface should be applied, such as that used on the pickleball and tennis courts at the Taconic Hills school. Moreover, the court should be lined for both basketball and two pickleball courts. (Such double-lining is common.)

B. Possible opportunity to Follow the Chazen/LaBella plan and also build a separate, dedicated pickleball court to the south of the basketball court.

C. The fencing around the basketball court should be replaced as well as the bench near the court, while the deteriorated court lighting should be restored or replaced. The unused basketball pole should be removed.

D. The parking lot behind the sheriff's station should be enlarged to help ease the lack of parking during park events.

E. A bandstand and picnic pavilion--both of which also scored high in the survey--should be constructed.