

NOTES: HILLSDALE HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING December 16, 2023

Present: Joe Browdy, Tom Carty, Rene Gibson, Ellen Levy, Janis Smythe, Laurie Winfrey
Absent: Shirley Bresler, Rick Kumro, Frank Upham, Joan Wallstein

The meeting was opened at 10:15.

The **Minutes/Notes** from the November 11th meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously, on a motion by Tom Carty, seconded by Laurie Winfrey.

The committee briefly discussed the “**Pro Housing Communities Program**,” so ably analyzed by Rick Kumro. It was decided to present the program to the new Town Board, explain its purpose and request that a representative of the Town submit a “letter of intent” to the State requesting that Hillsdale be considered as a “Pro Housing Community.” According to the program, this designation should give the Town some preference in applying for housing funds from NY State Housing and Community Renewal (HCR). A resolution of the Town Board is not required because, according to Rick’s information, the Town has already met certain criteria required for the designation, e.g., created a sufficient number of new dwelling units over a certain period of time.

Properties for Development: Joe Browdy

Joe described a December 12 meeting that he and Ellen had scheduled with Lee Heim, the Town’s Building inspector, to discuss available properties for development. We had previously done some research on properties on Routes 22 & 23. These properties were very attractive because they would have easy access to the Town’s sewer system. We were informed that they were unavailable. We learned that any multi-family development would likely be very expensive without access to an existing sewer system. Lee was extremely helpful.

The Committee discussed several other properties close to the center of town that might be appropriate for Workforce housing but none were available.

Bank of Greene County grant possibility. Tom reported that \$625 might be available to us as our share if the Town receives the grant. We will submit a paragraph describing plans to use it to hire a consultant to analyze a piece of property, or whatever we might need over the coming year.

2023 Grant from Town funds- \$750. Ellen reported that an invoice had been received from Rose Noonan for consulting work. A voucher has been submitted to the Town for payment.

There was some discussion about Tenants’ Rights and possibly planning a workshop for tenants, describing their rights and how to access assistance. No decision was made.

We all wished Janis Smythe, our esteemed co-chair, the best as she departs for warmer climes. She promised to return in June.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.