

Attending (through Zoom): Irwin, Kathy, Trudette, Matt Carey & Matt White

Not attending: Joanna and Margaret

Matthew Carey was welcomed as a new committee member

There was nothing that required a vote at this meeting; instead, it was mostly an update on the Welcome Billboard and an opportunity to talk about new ideas as our committee moves forward.

BILLBOARD - Regarding the billboard, we have been awaiting the decision from the DOT, and hope to have it soon. Latest news, as of today... the DOT has reviewed the project and needs additional information from the landowner (Steve Bluestone) and the billboard owner (the town of Hillsdale). With Robina's help and Mike Dvorchak's input we hope to respond soon to DOT, then we await their response. I will keep you updated.

POSSIBLE BUSINESS ALLIANCE - Irwin updated the committee about the progress to create an official and legal Hillsdale business alliance. It's been slow going, and legal advice is needed. While the alliance must be (by law) separate from any official town committee, the Econ Dev committee is eager to learn of its progress as it dovetails with our work.

LOCAL EVENTS - Because local events are helpful to our business district, we got a quick update on events happening in town. Trudy filled us in on the Art Walk, Matt W (Workshop Experience Weekend), and the Roe Jan Summerfest, following the Art Walk in August, will again be located around the Roe Jan Brewing Co. While our committee doesn't produce these events, we know they bring people and potential customers for our local businesses. Not mentioned at the meeting but coming up this weekend is the Flea Market happening Saturday in the Hamlet Park.

NEW BUSINESS - There is concern that buildings and commercial spaces are not maintained and are not open. This is a worry as it hinders our business district from attracting new businesses that seek an active and healthy commercial environment, while also attracting new consumers to support all businesses in Hillsdale. The fact that 10 Anthony has been leased for several months and in all these months, remains unopened is an example of this distressing problem. Many non-business-owner residents have also expressed their frustration and concern about how this brings the hamlet down. Careful conversations will be started with the tenants and the landlord, to hopefully encourage a change.

NEXT MEETING - Wed., July 22, 3 PM

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!