

Notes of Hillsdale Hamlet Committee Meeting

July 11, 2020, 9 AM

at Hilltop Barn, Roe Jan Park

Present: Shannon May (Chair), Toby Butterfield (Secretary), Paul Amash, John Barbato, Jane Buck, Lynda Brenner, Mike Dvorchak, Miguel Ferreyra de Bone, Phyllis Granat, Robina Ward, Mary Jo Williams, Bart Ziegler,

Absent: Peter Cohen, Griffin Cooper, Mike Stertz, Joan Wallstein.

1. Shannon welcomed everyone back to the first in-person meeting since February. (The meeting was held, socially-distanced, at the barn at Roe Jan because rain had resulted in a last-minute location change from the Hamlet Park.)

2. The Hamlet Committee received and approved the notes of its June 2020 meeting.

3. **Committee Membership**

Shannon reminded everyone that the newly reconstituted Hamlet Committee has been meeting for a year, and invited anyone who wants to take over the role of chair or secretary to so indicate. No one did, and so Shannon indicated that she and Toby would be happy to remain as chair and secretary respectively for another year, at which time they intend to step down. She also indicated that she is speaking with members of the committee about their commitment for the coming year, and as a result there is room for new members, so she will welcome nominations including self-nominations.

4. **Town Gardens**

Lynda reported that some of the gardens at the entry to the hamlet need gardening attention, and solicited volunteers. Jane and Toby said they'd help. Lynda will seek additional volunteers and circulate information about when the group will meet, probably one Saturday morning.

5. **New Projects**

Shannon solicited idea for other projects the committee might pursue. Shannon reported our Rail Trail signs have been ordered. John suggested pursuing better overall signage in town overall, such as more attractive street signs. Shannon suggested the town's Economic Development Committee might have some interest. Jane was interested in contributing. John and Jane will investigate.

6. **Hamlet Park**

Shannon reported we received approximately 10 questions or expressions of interest in response to the RFP. The procedure is for the Town Clerk to open all physical mail and email straight after the deadline for submissions, and to scan and circulate copies of all.

The Town Board has requested our committee to review them and make a recommendation for which to accept. Robina and others confirmed that the Town Board will make the ultimate decision, but that it does not have to simply accept the cheapest bid, hence its request for a recommendation, so the Town Board can take action at its August 11 meeting.

To expedite the process and avoid duplicating everyone's effort, Shannon reported that we will formalize our decision to operate separate sub-committees, to allow everyone to focus on projects of interest to them. She previously received and received at the meeting the following expressions of interest:

Landscape Architect subcommittee:

Toby Butterfield
Miguel Ferreyra de Bone
Phyllis Granat
Gaye Hoffman
Mary Jo Williams
Bart Ziegler

Grants subcommittee:

Shannon May
Tom Carty

Fundraising subcommittee:

John Barbato
Jane Buck
Tom Carty
Miguel Ferreyra de Bone
Gaye Hoffman

The Landscape Architect subcommittee formed a plan to review submissions and meet in the first week of August and prepare a report and proposed recommendation for the full Hamlet Committee to review and adopt at its August 8 meeting, in time for the next Town Board meeting on August 11.

Other subcommittees will formulate their plans in the next two months.

7. Community Event

Shannon reported that the Town Board had welcomed the idea of planning an event in late September or early October, subject to current events/social distancing rules. The committee discussed possible events, and decided to pursue an event in Hamlet Park that would build upon and combine with the fall pumpkin festival held in prior years. Ideas included some form of entertainment, a petting zoo for kids if that is possible; pumpkin carving, face-painting and a bake sale. Toby, Paul, Miguel, Phyllis and Beth

Gordon (who may also want to join our committee) are all interested in planning the event and formulating a proposal to the Town Board.

8. Other Proposals

John proposed creating garbage cans, possibly sponsored by businesses in town, to help avoid littering. There was general discussion, with concern over who would empty them, and avoiding their abuse by people who would dump household garbage in them. Robina offered advice re prior experience. Shannon and Toby were interested. John will investigate.

There was discussion about prior “booklets” about what businesses, attractions and activities are located in Hillsdale, and a proposal to add a section of the new town website devoted to that, to assist in Economic Development.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05. The next meeting is on **Sunday August 9 at 9:30 am (Note new day and time!)**, location TBD.