

Notes of Hillsdale Hamlet Committee Meeting

Monday, March 14, 2020, 6:00 to 7:00 PM

Via Zoom

Present: Toby Butterfield (Chair), Lisa Berman, Tom Carty, Jason Durant, Phyllis Granat, Robina Ward, Bart Ziegler, Paul Amash Jr., Margaret Bower Avenia

Apologies: Garrin Benfield, Rob Bradley, Gaye Hoffman, Shannon May

Absent: Lynda Brenner.

1. Minutes, New Members: The Committee approved the previously circulated revised notes of the February meeting.

2. Committee Budget Issues: Toby reported that after the March meeting, Tom Carty had arranged for approximately \$548 of the Committee's \$750 budget for 2021 from the Town of Hillsdale to be reallocated to cover reimbursements during 2021. The committee wanted to access that additional \$548, instead of charging it against the 2022 budget or against previously accumulated fundraising proceeds being held by HE CDC. After the meeting, Tom reported to Toby that the committee would not be able to access that \$548 after all, and that no credit would roll over to 2022.

3. Upcoming Events: Toby also reported that at their April meeting, the Town Board approved the proposed Hillsdale Car Show and the Flea Market. Jams in the Hamlet was approved in principle, pending resolution of the issue of a rain date or venue, as described below. Robina Ward commented about the forthcoming revised procedures for using Town property, which she said will be easier to understand and a new Event Application Form that will be available online. The organizer of each event will have to complete the form.

4. Jams in the Hamlet: Jason presented on behalf of himself and husband Garrin on the state of planning for Jams in the Hamlet. "Jams" is currently seeking a rain location in the event of a catastrophic rain event as occurred on multiple occasions during the previous year. The Hillsdale Town Board has been unwilling to provide the option of potentially using the Hilltop Barn at Roe Jan Park as an alternative. A long discussion ensued with Board member Robina Ward stating that the barn could not be used, as taxpayer money is not allowed to be used on events at that location. There were several pointed questions about the nature of the decision and the committee tabled the conversation after being unable to clarify the position. Robina also commented about the Jams rain date situation, saying the Town Board's hands are tied, as the Roe Jan Park is paid for by rentals and donations and we cannot spend taxpayer money on renting the barn for Jams. Members of the committee requested that Robina get us supporting information/communication on the Roe Jan barn use as soon as possible, as

time is of the essence. She agreed to look into and provide the documentation. Robina also agreed to reach out to the Fire Department about the possibility of using the facility there in the event of flooding in Hamlet Park. Jason reported that he and Garrin would be making a final decision on the ability to stage the events as planned given the lack of a rain location.

5. Proposed Welcome to Hillsdale Sign on Route 23 east of Route 22: Bart will continue to look into the design and cost of a new sign, which we hope will be placed on the property where the Collins Street convenience store was formerly located. Margaret will check into another vendor for a sign, as will Toby.

6. Proposal for Edits to Town Website: Phyllis proposed looking in to adding improved information about Hillsdale Hamlet Park on the Town of Hillsdale's website. Margaret agreed to help with photographs, Jason to help with writing.

7. Speeding in the Hamlet: Lisa Berman made a call to the State Trooper's barracks asking that they put troopers along Route 23, besides just in front of the Roe Jan School. They said they would pass the request up the chain. Also, the Sheriff's office said they would stay on top of that and put the speed trailer out on Route 23 when the snow melted. Committee members reported they had seen troopers waiting in the town hall parking lot, and elsewhere near the hamlet, but Paul reported seeing cars passing the Hillsdale General Store at about 55 mph.

8. At the end of the meeting, Phyllis started a discussion of approaching the Town Board to try to get pickleball into the Hamlet Park.

9. Rota for Keeping Notes of Committee Meetings: Toby reminded everyone that in the absence of a Committee Secretary, he will publish a rota, to ensure that someone is responsible for keeping notes each month. He thanked Margaret for keeping notes of the April meeting. The rota (which can be adjusted by committee members swapping their assigned month to someone else willing to cover their month) is as follows: **April: Phyllis. May: Paul. June: Robert. July: Lynda. August: no meeting planned. September: Lisa. October: Garrin. November: Shannon. December 2022 and thereafter: TBD.**

10. Adjournment: There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM. The next meeting will be held via Zoom on Monday, April 11 at 6 PM.