

MEETING NOTES
Historic Hillsdale
July 14, 2013

Members : Timi Bates, Julia Brandi, **Goeff Brookman, Tom Carty**, Fran Eberhart, Alexia Lalli (Chair), Marilyn Simon, Mike Stertz, Amelia Sydlosky, **Joan Walstein, Matthew White (those present are in bold)**
Jay Rohrlich and David Gallager are new committee members of Historic Hillsdale.

Guests: Dean and Adrian Alessi (new Hillsdale residents)

Honorary: Hillsdale Historian, Jeremy Dodds

1. **Lex and HH committee thanked Matthew White** for his talk at library which was attended by approximately 150 people (!). Matthew had a book sale at The General Store of “Tequila Mockingbird” and HH netted \$100 (check given to Tom Carty)

2. Town Hall Fund Raising appeal.

A letter was sent out in early June and it has raised \$20,000 in cash and pledges towards our goal of \$40,000. We hope to raise an additional \$10,000 from a second letter that is being prepared by Tom to follow up. The final \$10,000 will be raised by dinners to be held on November 2 (see below). Those who have given \$1000 or more will have their names on a Plaque to be placed in the Town Hall. Special thanks to Jay Rohrlich whose personal notes on the appeal letter brought in many supporters.

Please note that the Town is providing most of the funds for the renovation of the Town Hall; the funds raised by HH are going to assure that the work is being done to Historic Preservation standards. The Town funds would not be able to cover the historic work such as the slate roof, windows, etc. HH is matching \$40,000 that has been set aside by the Town to cover this work. The architect for the project has the preservation credentials and we are assured the work is being done right. Additional funds were contributed by the Rhinestrom Hill Community Foundation.

3. Town Hall progress report from Art Baer:

The architect has taken brick and mortar samples to ensure a proper match on replacement. Bids will be prepared this month and sent out in August. Matching funds are in the Building Reserve fund. Hopefully, there will not be any shortfall against final bids. Work will start in the fall and include parapets, foundation, roof, pointing, windows and painting.

4. DINE AROUND HILLSDALE fundraiser for Town Hall is planned for Saturday, November 2.

Dinner hosts will provide dinner for a minimum of 8 people, not including hosts. Dinners will have a theme or some entertaining element. Guests will pay \$50 or \$100 each. Those paying \$100 will get to choose their top three dining locations. All guests will be assigned to a dinner (hosts not expected to invite anyone themselves). We will also ask several local restaurants to donate dinner for 4.

A cocktail party at Town Hall will precede the dinners. Those wishing to attend just the cocktail party will be charged \$25. At the cocktail party the assignments to dinners will be handed out along with maps and directions.

Once hosts are found, a save the date will be sent, followed by an invitation describing the dinners.

Jay Rohrlich has been in touch with a relative of the former owner of the Mt. Washington Hotel. He gave Jay three letters signed by Franklin Delano Roosevelt when he was Assistant Secretary of the Navy in 1916. The letters are to be auctioned, along with other historical items from the collection, at the party preceding the dinners on November 2.

The letters are very interesting and may be of interest to the press; releases and copies will be sent to the press to attract attention to them and DINE AROUND HILLSDALE.

4. Hootenanny

Lex has contacted Dona of the Berkshire Ramblers who entertained at last year's hootenanny to see what dates they are available. If the dates work for everyone, and we can also invite other local entertainers, we will seek a Hootenanny Committee to find a venue and sound system, be in contact with the talent, find refreshments and arrange for the logistics and work with HH on getting the word out and announcements.

5. Dedication of Whippoorwill Road plaque – Jay Rohrlich

Wallace Bruce plaque will be installed and a celebration will take place on August 3rd on Whippoorwill Road. A bagpiper, special guests, Whippoorwill Road residents along with the general public will be present. A press release has been prepared and sent out.

6. Rail Trail Interpretive Signs.

A large sign with information on local history will be prepared to be placed at the trail head of the Rail Trail in Hillsdale which is located behind Herringtons along with a kiosk with rail trail information. HH nominated Julia Brandi and Jeremy Dodd to work together on the copy for the sign. Tom Carty has the information about dimensions, etc.

