

HISTORIC HILLSDALE Meeting Notes

DATE: November 17, 2013

TIME: 10 am

PLACE: Town Hall

One: Report on progress of Town Hall restoration

Augie said roof will be finished by December 31. The parapets are done and work on chimney is in progress. The addition in the back will get a new slate roof. The small shed will be torn down when the work is completed. The windows and painting will be done by Victor, who is already on the town payroll, and it will minimize the cost but will take more time. He will start with stripping and repairing the front windows and painting them and the façade so that there will be noticeable progress. The word “Library” will be painted over and be less visible.

The slate from the roof is available – it has been suggested that it be sold as a fund raiser for HH. Who will look into this, assess the condition of the slate, its value, and how to announce that it is for sale? (Interest has already been shown in the Slate by some people).

It was suggested that there be supervision to make sure the work is done to preservation standards. James, Matt, Mike and Fran are the Town Hall restoration supervision committee so I leave it to them to decide how.

The walkway will not be done this year (Asphalt to concrete). This was promised but the Town Board is waiting to hear about the DOT grant.

Two: Fund Raising

Total raised for Town Hall restoration (including bake sale and raffle) is \$36,785. That means we have \$3015 left to go. AWESOME!! A letter is going out to a few people that may be able to make up the difference. Lex will prepare a letter to the donors to bring them up to date on the progress of the work.

Three: Main Street

The Greek Revival on Main Street is being painted! Matthew spoke to Craig Norton who said he is interested in selling the property and intends to make some repairs by Spring. Bill Sullivan’s house is looking terrific.

Four: Roe Jan Historical Society

Bob Hunter, President RJHS, was invited to attend the meeting. The RJHS represents the towns of Copake, Ancram, Hillsdale, Taghanik and Gallatin and any smaller villages within those towns (Ancramdale, Copake Falls). Bob is the head of the Historical Society for a few more months. HH discussed the idea of having RJHS partner with us and serve

as an umbrella organization for all the region's historic efforts – both history and historic preservation. All the towns can help each other.

We have given the letters from FDR that Jay Rohrlich discovered to the RJHS for their collection. We can borrow any of their items when we need them for exhibitions, perhaps an exhibition at the same time as the House Tour or for the party to celebrate the completion of Town Hall.

Five: House Tour 2014

The Committee has reassembled and met and decided on Collins Street for the next House Tour. Houses are being selected and owners contacted. The event will be in July/August 2014 and may include lunch. Town Hall will be the headquarters for the event.

Six: Velez Letter

The letter that was sent out by Frank Velez was discussed. In it he calls the Town Hall project a “money pit”. It was thought that the letter should be answered by the Town and perhaps HH. The record needs to be set straight on the private donations to Town Hall that offset the costs of restoration.

Seven: Rail Trail

The sign for the Rail Trail – work on this has been initiated by Jeremy Dodd, Julie Brandi, Tom Carty. Bart Zeigler requested more information which will be provided. Next meeting will be in January.