

**COMBINED HAMLET COMMITTEE – AGENDA
JANUARY 2014**

1) INTRODUCTIONS – HAMLET COMMITTEE AND HISTORIC

We held a joint meeting with both committees today. Geoff Brookman; Laura Perrone Griffin; Amelia Robedee-Sydlosky ; Tim Stookesberry; Lex Lalli; Tom Carty; Mike Stertz; David Ruede; Timi Bates; Paul Amash; Matthew White; Lynda Brenner; Joan Wallstein; ~~Julia Brande~~; Steve Tiger; Julia Brandi.

2) APPROVAL OF NOTES FROM LAST MEETING

Notes were approved from last month.

3) TOWN BOARD UPDATE – Steve Tiger

Brief update from Steve. Economic Development Committee has finished and delivered the first phase of their work to the Town Board. There will be a public meeting in February to present and discuss.

4) HAMLET COMMITTEE - Review of Accomplishments and Activities

- TEP GRANT for sidewalks: we have not heard from Dept. of Transportation yet.
- HAMLET PARK – Tim Stookesberry - brief update about Phase 2
- RAIL TRAIL – Bart Ziegler/Tom Carty: we'll talk more about that later in the meeting
- TOWN BEAUTIFICATION – Lynda: we have four gardens in town that we help maintain; the Town is helping us maintain the Veteran's memorial and the Town Hall Park.
- TOWN HALL PARK: completed
- HILLSDALE ARTS FESTIVAL: first festival took place last year and it was a big hit.

5) HISTORIC COMMITTEE – Review of Accomplishments and Activities

- HISTORICAL DESIGNATION
- Signs designating the boundaries of the Historic District were installed.
- TOWN HALL RESTORATION: Progressing nicely; roof should be done soon. Windows and wooden entry to begin in the spring.
- FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES: Raised \$60,000 from a grant and a successful letter-writing campaign.
- BROCHURE ON TAX CREDITS: brochure created that explains about the credits you can get when you want to fix a historic house; we're working with local real estate agents to get the word out.
- PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS (PUMPKIN FESTIVAL): Ran a bake sale at the Pumpkin Festival" "for the completion of the Town Hall restoration and the Town Hall Park."
- SUMMER HOUSE TOUR: August 23 is our target for the Historic House tour. Tickets will be sold here at the Town Hall.
- JOINT EVENT: we'll have one joint event between the two committees to try to have a joint celebration for the Town Hall and Town Hall Park.
- SLATE: Jeff Paige and Mike Stertz have some ideas on what to do with the slate that was removed from the Town Hall to make way for the new roof.

6) BUSINESS ALLIANCE – Laura Perrone Griffin

Laura is in charge of this committee; there's a good mix of folks on the business alliance. The goals this year are to update the town brochure and create a Facebook/Web presence page. They'll organize the Pumpkin Festival this year, which will be held on October 11. The email for this group is hillsdalebusinessalliance@gmail.com

7) JOINT FUNDRAISING GOALS FOR 2014 RAIL TRAIL

Goal \$375,000 to match grant for \$375K from the state. The Rail Trail Association hired a professional fundraiser to go after major donors right now. Goal is to have the community fundraising portion down to \$125K. \$50K already raised.

FUNDRAISING:

- **Flower Power Luncheon for the Parks:** we need to solidify the date for this.
- **Involvement of Library:** they will ultimately benefit from having the rail trail so close, too. Is there a possibility of having a “Literary Walk” connection to RJ Library?
- **Branding Hillsdale/Uniform Guidelines:** Tod Wohlfarth of Rock Paper Pixel will be working with us to help us rebrand all of the signage around town. That’s part of the PPS plan and we are sticking with the guidelines they established there. Good suggestions for examples of other towns came up: Corning, NY and Kent, CT. Presentation for Board Approval planned for February.
- **2016 Centenary of Civil War Memorial in Cullen Park: Memorial Day, 2016** celebration. We need to probably spruce up the whole area and budget for an event. We would need to clean and repair the walkway around that area and consider removing the tree, which obscures the statue and could be replaced elsewhere in the hamlet to ensure a spot for the annual Christmas tree lighting event.
- **“Big Read” program** – Joan brought this up – “Farewell to Arms” was the school pick for the community read; There could be a tie-in between the World War 1 theme and Cullen Park Memorial. There’s an NEA grant tied to this, too.
- **Library Gala: May 31** (weekend after Memorial Day)

IDEAS:

- **Can we put a series of events around the history of the railroads in the area?** Lex will talk to the folks at the Historic Society to see if they can be involved. We should try to get Dr. Delgrande, the dentist, involved since he has a deep interest in trains and a spectacular train setup.
- **We need ideas on how to get funds raised for this.**
- **Is there something we can do in tandem with the bike people, too?** Copake Bike Auction?
- **Tom set up a little fundraising committee to kick around ideas.**