

## **Minutes of Historic Hillsdale Committee January 31, 2016**

Attending: Lex Lalli, Peter Cipkowski, Geoff Brookman, Tom Carty, Eileen Cohen, Timi Bates, Janis Smythe, Joan Wallstein, Jay Rohrllich

1. **Goals and mission statement for HH Committee discussed.** All town committees must prepare this annually for presentation to the Hillsdale Town Board. First paragraph of HH mission amended to read:

"To promote the preservation of the unique heritage of the town of Hillsdale, including public buildings, homes, cemeteries, historic sites and trails, roads, landscapes and other features of the town in order to protect and preserve that which gives Hillsdale its character and enhances our quality of life and economic development."

2. **Specific goals for HH committee discussed**

a. A February 2016 organizational meeting will take place to discuss timing and scope for next house tour. Eileen Cohen proposed tour of home kitchens in town. This could be tied in with house tour, providing information about tax credits that are available for kitchen renovations and other home improvements.

b. Fund raising: Peter Cipkowski told us about plans for "Grillsdale," a fund raising event at the Roe Jan park next August 20 which will involve chefs from local and surrounding areas (Berkshires, Connecticut, Hudson, etc.) creating a grand culinary event. Grillsdale will focus on highlighting the Roe Jan Park, local food, local chefs (within a 25 mile radius) and benefit the Rail Trail project. It is being organized by Joanna Virello, Meghan McCann, and Barbara Olsen Pascale, all of Hillsdale.

3. **Update on toll house**

a. Bill Krattinger is moving ahead to nominate the toll house for state and national landmark status. "Seven to Save" will soon be announced by the Preservation League of New York State. The young woman from the League

who made a site visit with us last meeting reported that she is very enthusiastic about Hillsdale and the Toll House.

b. There is much interest from Historic Hudson and the Columbia County Historical Society to link the Columbia Turnpike projects east and west. Peter is going to make presentations to them.

c. After designaton to the National Register, it would be a goodetting DOT involved regarding making the site usable and safe.

d. Peter reported that James Wagman's office is in the process of preparing topographical maps of the area around the toll house to explore how site development can be optimized.

#### **4. Outside light under entrance roof at Town Hall**

a. Has not been purchased yet. Possibilities are being explored by Matt White who donated money for it's purchase.

#### **5. Discusson of Town Hall sign replacement and other town signs.**

a. If any funds are left after the light is replaced, Matt asked that it be used to replace the Town Hall sign. A process is in place for all town signs to be consistent and represent the town's identity. Town Board will have to sign off on this.

#### **6. Expanding membership of HH.**

a. With 17 members currently, it was felt that we should not add more than one new person and cap the membership at 18. Lynn Colclough has been contacted about becoming a member. She would bring a great deal of substance to our group.

#### **7. Tax Credits**

a. Matthew pointed out that the house on Anthony Street is undergoing extensive renovation using tax credits, and the small house on Coldwater that just sold will be also. In the spring it might be a good time to

try for some PR on Hillsdale when the Toll House is listed and there is more to put in a release or pitch as a feature story.

**7. Update on Route 23 historic mile marker.**

a. Will be put together by Eileen Cohen's mason, then moved to its proper place.