

Minutes of Historic Hillsdale Committee May 22, 2016

Attending: Lex Lalli, Peter Cipkowski, Jay Rohrlach, Fran Eberhardt, David Gallagher, Geoff Brookman, James Wagman. Timi Bates, Joan Wallstein

Guests: Jill Sims Elster, Julie Kane

TOLL HOUSE

Update on Toll House: Now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and a “Friends of Eastgate,” is in formation as a separate not-for-profit organization. Here is the Mission Statement: The Friends of East Gate are committed to the acquisition, stabilization, and renovation of the historic East Gate Toll House in Hillsdale, NY.

An application, prepared with the help of Howard VanLenten has been submitted to the State for not-for-profit status. The Board is in formation. Once the state approves, application for Federal NFP status will be submitted. Peter will offer the owner of toll house \$15K based on contribution from Edgar Masters.

MONUMENT

A ceremony for the 100th anniversary of Hillsdale’s Civil War monument will take place on Monday, May 30, at 10:30 AM. 143 men from Hillsdale enlisted in the war, 18 died. 2500 people came to the original dedication on July 4, 1916. It is the only monument to the Civil War in Columbia County.

MAP

A map of the Hamlet/Historic District has been proposed and is in the works, to be displayed at the Rail Trail and in the center of Hillsdale on permanent signs. Julia, Lex and Jay met with Jenny Clark, graphic designer. The Hillsdale Business Alliance and the Hamlet Committee wish to join HH and provide additional funds to develop an inclusive map of Hillsdale HAMLET with additional information about places to eat, shop, civic buildings, etc. The purpose of the map is to give information to people who visit Hillsdale as to what they can do while here. The map would be linked to the Town website.

A meeting will be held to discuss the map with Hamlet and Business Committees to propose what would be included on a final version of the map. Question of printing the information as a handout will be discussed once the map is done. The map will refer people to the website for more information.

The Historic Hillsdale portion of the website will include a Time Line of Hillsdale history and perhaps a “Stroll through Historic Hillsdale” walking tour. Julia and Peter are working with the website developer on this.

TAX CREDITS

Hillsdale House and two houses in Historic District are for sale and eligible for tax credits. Brokers will be sent tax credit information.

How can we help renovate buildings on Maine Street - Route 23? Owners fear that their taxes will go up if renovated. Discussion included the creation of a fund to help people with renovation, taxes. A revolving fund could be set up if donation could be found to get it started. Lex will discuss other towns and how they have handled this with PLNYS.

Tax Credit Brochure: Information needs to be updated and new tag lines developed. All buildings in the Historic District aren’t eligible for tax benefits, because they have to be “contributing” to the historic district as identified in the original survey of the Hamlet. It was pointed out that many residents in the historic district are renters, not owners, and some owners don’t have tax liabilities against which to receive tax credits. Lex will meet with Robina about the map of the district and it will be updated on the website. Brochure can be reproduced inexpensively if necessary.

LIBRARY PROGRAM

Library speaker on preservation: Jill Sims Elster suggested speakers at library who are restoring or have restored houses. Ask Matthew White to introduce and present his buildings. Other speakers could be Mike Stertz and David Gallagher for minor replacing improvements eligible for credits (boilers, kitchens, bathrooms), and the owner of the residence being restored on Anthony Street.