

**Meeting Notes for Historic Hillsdale  
Sunday July 10, 2016**

Present:

Lex Lalli  
Eileen Cohen  
Peter Cipkowski  
Fran Eberhart  
David Gallagher  
Jamie Johnson  
Janis Smythe  
Michael Stertz  
Joan Wallstein  
James Wagman

Absent:

Timi Bates  
Julie Brandi  
Geoff Brookman  
Tom Carty  
Jay Rohrlich  
Amelia Sydlosky  
Matthew White

At 10 am, Lex thanked folks for meeting at the Roeliff Jansen Historical Society museum in Copake Falls – a nice way to see the excellent Bash Bish exhibit.

**Sign/Maps**

Lex and Joan shared Julia's report and a bio of Jennifer Clark, the graphic designer Julia has selected as a partner in the project. Proposed budget:

Map design \$1800  
Sign design \$2200  
Printing \$1000  
Installation tbd

Joan explained that two signs are proposed – both the same – showing a map, the forty houses that are of historic or architectural value as determined by the original survey of the hamlet, and will be linked eventually to the website for more information.

Though \$5,000 is available in the budget, and though the committee admires the work done by Julia and the designer, the question was posed: does Hillsdale really need a sign in town, or two, that gives an overview of historic houses? Is now the time?

Several committee members commented that five thousand seems like too much money to apply to a project for a town of this size. Comments: Is it an intrusion on private households? Will this offend some

people? Are there really people interested in this sort of thing other than us? Will some people think we're over-stepping, spending too much, making too much of this? It may be more appropriate for a bigger town like Hudson or Rhinebeck or Lenox. Or, something that is good for Hillsdale's future when we have real visitor traffic.

Peter suggested that if folks don't want to do a sign, maybe some of the money can be applied to making the information digital and easily accessible on a mobile device. Ideas about how to make the information displayed online are already on the table. Peter also suggested printing a small "compelling" postcard, available at many locations, that directs people to the history area on the website. It was also decided to continue to develop a time line of the history of Hillsdale for the website, once budget is reviewed.

David offered to help increase awareness of historic buildings by developing copy for the newsletter.

### **Next Library Talk**

There was a discussion about co-sponsoring a library talk with the RJHS this October or November. Various ideas were discussed but there was a lot of consensus around the need to highlight historic cemeteries.

Joan and Janis suggested a focus on two historic, somewhat neglected cemeteries – Pill Hill and Old Town Road West. Mike stressed the importance of linking this to attract more folks, especially full-time residents. Janis agreed that was important. Peter suggested that including Old Town East, the larger cemetery on the east side of Route 22, would probably interest more folks. Not only was the design inspired by the nineteenth century cemetery movement, this cemetery still has a lot of local family connections. They could use some attention and, if possible, financial assistance. Fran added that each cemetery should be "documented and photographed."

A cemetery subcommittee was established including Joan, Janis, Jamie, James and Fran (advisor). They will meet soon to discuss planning a panel or talk of some kind for the fall and a possible tour in the spring 2017.

### **Toll House**

Peter reported that the application to create Friends of East Gate is still being processed by the NY Department of State. Peter also said that he received a letter of "official recognition" from Bill Krattinger that Toll House is now on the national register. He said that the owner, Vickie Jenssen, was also notified and wrote that "we should pop the champagne, is grateful for all the efforts and that the ball is in our court."

Eileen suggested that now is the time to draw up a contract WITH THE OWNER, pending approval, and make the move to acquire the building. Peter said that he will draft something and discuss with the owner.

### **Rail Trail**

Tom reported through email that Rail trail we are close to construction. Need to Link rail trail sign to website.

### **Scenic Byways**

James is interested in supporting Lex in her effort to research this process, surely a long one. The goal is to make Route 23 an “historic byway” and eligible for signs to attract tourists, etc. James will start by printing out some reading material.

### **Historic House Tour**

Janis explained that she and Timi, and other in their group, have been exploring a few ideas for August 2017, some of which we all found very promising. Janis will report back in another month or two.