

Minutes of Historic Hillsdale Committee September 17, 2016

Attending: Lex Lalli, Peter Cipkowski, Tom Carty, Eileen Cohen, David Gallagher, Jay Rohrllich, Geoff Brookman, Joan Wallstein, James Wagman

1. Cemetery report: Joan Wallstein

Presented map of Hillsdale cemeteries: 9 primary and 6 secondary are on map.

New member Jeanne Kiefer did most of the work to identify and map cemeteries. Originally committee was to focus on three: Pill Hill, Old Orchard, and Hillsdale Rural, but Jean submitted a 20 page report, one page on each cemetery. Her main interest is Krum cemetery and Revolutionary War vets.

Next steps: Committee now working to determine who owns land where each cemetery is. Also researching cemetery law (who is responsible for maintenance, upkeep, etc

Looking for funds. Town has no financial responsibility. Churches often use their funds for cemeteries associated with them.

Statement of goals: Short term...report on town website with map. Install historic signs, brochure, library talk. Long term...solicit funds to repair stones, install fencing, trees, shrubery. Focus on talk at library to develop interest and new plans. Collaborate with RJHS.

2. Toll House report: Peter

Friends of Eastgate is now designated as a non-profit organization.

Owner is coming for a visit and discussion will take place about purchase.

Friends of Eastgate now is entity in charge of Toll House future, will report to RJHS and HH on progress.

3. RJ Historical Society: Peter

Oct. 9 talk at the museum on Bash Bish exhibit

Talk on Toll Houses by Peter in Hudson in November

Oral history project is ongoing and will be posted on RJHS website

4. Rail Trail Marker in Hillsdale: Tom Carty

RJHS will work on marker for Rail Trail head at Orphan Farm Road. Historic Hillsdale will produce marker at Hillsdale trailhead. Jay and Peter will work on text and photos.

5. Scenic Byway Designation: Lex

Lex reports on how to get Scenic Byway designation for Route 23 from Massachusetts border to Hudson River. Long process with collaboration with community and all towns along designated byway. Byway designation means more interest in region, visitors to byway and nearby attractions, and access to funds from DOT. James interested in helping with this.

6. House Tour: Joan:
August 12, 2017. Focus still undetermined.
7. Sidewalk: Peter. Final ok given to proceed with bid process.
DOT gives 15 days for bids on work after advertisement in Register Star. 4-5 week process before bids are approved. Work commences Spring 2017.
8. Matthew White (through Lex) wants more publicity on tax credits for buildings in the historic district. Matt placed free aid in the Hills. Looking into other notices. Must go to local brokers to tell them that it will help their sales to tell about possibility of tax credits on commercial and residential property. Reception for brokers suggested.
9. Bake sale for Pumpkin Festival. October 22. Two or three possible bakers: Lex, Patti, Dennis(see below)
10. Jay recommends "Hidden History of Columbia County." Great book for all of us.
<https://www.amazon.com/Hidden-History-Columbia-County-York/dp/1626193959>
11. Dennis Kelly Higgins guest from Ancram wants to volunteer on projects.
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Submitted by Jay Rohrlach