

Minutes of Historic Hillsdale Committee Meeting December 11,2016

Attending: Lex Lalli, Geoff Brookman, Janice Smythe, Timi Bates, Fran Eberhart, Joan Wallstein, James Wagman, Eileen Cohen, Jamie Johnson, Tom Carty, David Gallagher. Ex officio: Lauren Letellier, Chris Atkins

1. Toll House Report: Jamie Johnson and James Wagman

A brokerage account for Friends of East Gate is being established in order to accept the gift of \$15,000 worth of stock being donated by Edgar Masters and Deb Cohen. This stock will be liquidated in order to purchase the Toll House. There was a discussion of the purchase and what is needed, such as liability insurance.

James Wagman presented renderings of the Toll House in its possible future form – featuring a small park, parking facilities, a café, museum and library/research facility.

2. Cemetery Committee: Joan Wallstein and Lauren Letellier

Joan shared the map of Hillsdale cemeteries. She described how much research Jeanne Kiefer was able to accomplish over the summer. Lauren discussed the condition of the cemeteries and priorities for preservation. She found the McKinstry family plot recently and, with her husband, Chris Atkins', help organized the clearing of the overgrowth of brush on the plot. She described the family's significance in the pre- & post-Revolutionary War history of the area which makes the plot extremely important, though the stones are in bad condition. There was a discussion regarding which cemeteries were a priority and next steps. There was a discussion of a cemetery tour on Memorial Day to raise awareness and funds for restoration. Specifically, it was decided to approach the Roe Jan Historical Society to help with setting very short, short and long term priorities for rehabilitation of the gravestones and maintenance of the cemeteries.

3. House tour: Timi Bates and Janice Smyth

The house tour will take place on August 12th. The exact houses and route are still being organized

4. Sidewalks timeline: Tom Carty

At this time, the expected duration of the work on the sidewalks in the hamlet will be 2-5 months. This will take place in Spring 2017.

5. Rail Trail: Tom Carty

The rail trail between Black Grocery Road and Anthony Street has been graded. Originally, the trail was to be paved this fall. It will now be paved in Spring 2017. The highway departments of Copake, Hillsdale and Columbia County have contributed to the work, with the county funding its portion of the work. Tom noted that the rail trail required a new drainage pipe to be installed on Anthony Street, which work is being completed. There will be signs marking Hillsdale Hamlet with text on the history, flora and fauna by Peter Cipkowski.

6. Hamlet buildings for sale: Lex Lalli

There was a discussion regarding the buildings for sale in the hamlet. There has been some interest from buyers in the former B&G liquor store building and Hillsdale House.

7. Survey of other potential landmark buildings in Hillsdale hamlet and village: Lex Lalli
There was a discussion regarding other buildings that might be landmarks, including potential uses if the buildings were empty, such as the former Agway building on Anthony Street and the store on the corner of Route 23 and Mitchell Street (which some believe may be the original East Gate Toll House).