

Hillsdale Hamlet Committee Notes, Jan. 9, 2016 Meeting

Attendees: Tom Carty, Howard Van Lenten, Jeffrey Paige, Laura Griffin, Steve Tiger, David Ruede, Eileen Cohen, Joan Wallstein, Kelly Fox, Peter Cipkowski, Amelia Robedee-Sydlosky, Mike Stertz, Robina Ward, Sharon Coleman, Tod Wohlfarth, Bart Ziegler

1. Minutes from last meeting (November) were approved with one change in the Town Board section: last sentence should read "Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee budget was dropped to \$3,000."
2. Sidewalk project update from Supervisor Peter Cipkowski on revised expected start date of spring/early summer of 2016. Committee, at the Town Board's request, provided input on the below items; the Board will make the final determination:
 - a. Style of brick strip along the north side of Main Street adjacent to the new sidewalk. The majority of the committee liked the "running bond" style.
 - b. Bench style and placement: The committee liked the "World's Fair" bench, as used in New York City parks and suggested by David Ruede. Many members thought the style suggested by the sidewalk engineering firm, and contained in the PPS plan, was too ornamental. Discussion of placing benches at the veterans memorial, adjacent to the driveway to the general store parking lot, at the Civil War monument and outside Mt. Washington House.
 - c. No suggestions were recommended for plantings.
3. Discussion of Town Board's need and process for communicating with landowners adjacent to the sidewalk about timing, how work will affect traffic and driveways.
4. Discussion of Town Board's desire to have closer relationship with town committees.
 - a. Committee will notify Board in advance of planned events that affect the town, continue to submit meeting minutes, Committee member will attend Town Board meetings as necessary.
 - b. Town Board will react to Committee plans and communications in a timely manner.
 - c. Committee is pleased that two members of Board are also Hamlet Committee members.
5. Review of the Hamlet Committee mission statement. After a discussion, the committee approved a revision to add section C below, The mission of the Hamlet Committee is to:
 - a. Maintain and improve upon the small-community atmosphere and cohesiveness of the Hamlet of Hillsdale.
 - b. Foster the development of a safe, attractive, accessible, and friendly town center in which Hamlet residents and businesses can flourish.
 - c. Help enact the provisions of the Hillsdale Comprehensive Plan.
6. Tod Wohlfarth gave an update on town branding initiative. By end of the month new designs should be available for town website, town newsletter and seal.
7. Rail trail update: Tom Carty said the Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association is expected to put out to bid this winter a contract to pave the section from Anthony Street in Hillsdale to Black Grocery Road near Route 22. All funding is in place for this work.

8. Committee approved a motion to explore the installation of “platform” steps from the sidewalk to Town Hall Park to provide better access. A subcommittee comprised of Joan Wallstein, Tom Carty and Matt White will look into this. Funding is available from private monies raised to build the park.
9. Fulfilling a longtime Hamlet Committee request, Supervisor Cipkowksi said town funding is included in the 2016 budget to maintain town’s public gardens and parks (entrance signs, veterans memorial, Town Hall Park and Hamlet Park).
10. Basketball court restoration: Funds are available from last year’s Flower Power luncheon. Robina will look into the status of putting out a bid.
11. Hamlet Committee discussed its 2016 goals. Among them:
 - a. Help ensure sidewalk installation goes as planned
 - b. Work on Town Hall Park steps
 - c. Explore obtaining grants to install streetlights as part of sidewalk project as well as other possible grants
 - d. Obtain funding for and install new signage as per branding plan. Among them: four new “Welcome to Hillsdale” entrance signs to replace existing signs.
12. Business Alliance update. Discussion of committee having more involvement in the Alliance’s 2016 arts festival.
13. Committee noted that the Memorial Day parade will be in Hillsdale this year, helping commemorate the 100th anniversary of War Memorial in Cullen Park.
14. Next committee meeting date: Saturday Feb. 6 at 9:30 a.m. at Town Hall. Note the time change.