

HILLSDALE HAMLET COMMITTEE NOTES

Saturday, March 19, 2016, at 9:30 am

Attendance: Eileen Cohen, David Ruede, Steve Tiger, Laura Griffin, Tom Carty, Robina Ward, Jeff Paige, Joan Wallstein, Bart Ziegler.

1. Minutes from Feb. 6 meeting were approved.

2. Discussion of sidewalk project including lighting and benches. Robina Ward and Steve Tiger.

- Progress Report from GPI engineers has not been received (although it has been requested several times) and it is not entirely clear whether the project is on schedule.
- Based on the last meeting (held January 21), street-lighting conduit will be laid for the full length of the sidewalks on both sides of Main Street. Four street lights are expected to be included initially, location not clear. Three Worlds Fair design benches of metal with ipe-wood slats are to be included initially – placement not final.
- Great concern was expressed that there is no complete plan for lighting and, to the best of our knowledge, “stub-ups” for eventual additional streetlights are not part of the current plan.
 - It was suggested that “Progress Prints” be requested from GPI and that no streetlights be installed until there is a plan for all streetlight locations. Issue was raised that uneven and unattractive lighting could result if a plan isn't in place.
 - The Committee felt it was crucial that “stub-ups” for all lighting be installed while the sidewalks are under construction even though there is not funding to install all lights initially. Consensus was that as it would be expensive, inefficient and destructive to dig down to the conduit once the sidewalk is complete to add the stub-ups.

3. Update on town Branding Initiative.

- The Town Board approved the initiative after a full presentation on the entire project as well as several progress reports. Another short progress report will be provided at the next Town Board meeting, if needed.

- As described in Feb. 6 notes several signs with new town logo are planned.
- Per Laura Griffin - A committee is being formed to finalize the slogan for possible use on new town entry signs. Both PR/graphics experts and town residents will be included.

4. Rail trail update. Tom Carty

- Complete and final plan for Black Grocery Road to Anthony Street paving is at the state Department of Parks awaiting approval. Paving start still expected May-June.

5. Construction of “platform” steps from sidewalk to Town Hall Park. Subcommittee: Tom Carty, Matt White, Joan Wallstein.

- Concept is wide, deep grass steps with stone edges from sidewalk on Rt. 23 to park. Final design and construction will await sidewalk completion.

6. Basketball court restoration. Status of Town Board issuing a contract using funds from last year’s Flower Power event.

- Bill Sullivan has full specs for resurfacing and equipment. Robina will request these from him. Once the specs are available the Town Board could put the job out to bids.

7. Discussion of committee’s 2016 goals:

- Fundraising – Plans continue for fundraising letter for 4 or 5 town signs with new logo and branding.
- Grant for historic streetlights – More work needed on sources of appropriate grants and how to pursue them.
- Hamlet Committee will be supportive but not officially involved in Memorial Day parade, Arts Festival and Grillsdale events.

8. Date of next meeting – April 16 at 9:30am.