

HILLSDALE HAMLET COMMITTEE NOTES
Saturday, Nov. 12, 2016, at 9:30 am

Attendance: Bart Ziegler, Tom Carty, Lynda Brenner, Mike Stertz, Laura Perone Griffin, Joan Wallstein

1. Notes from October meeting were approved.
2. Sidewalk Project and Street Lighting Update – Tom
 - a. Low bid on sidewalk construction approved and passed on to DOT for final approval.
 - b. Fundraiser Victor Cornelius is checking with State Sen. Marchione’s office on our application for Streetlight funding - \$85,000.
3. New Entry Signs and Town Hall Sign – Bart and Tom
 - a. Prices came in significantly higher than anticipated. Because of this:
 - Mike Stertz will talk to the metalworker to try to negotiate a lower price and to fully understand the materials to be used and their maintenance.
 - Even if prices are lowered somewhat, it was decided that four signs will be purchased at this time instead of five: the Town Hall sign and three, instead of four, “Welcome to Hillsdale” entry signs. There is currently no appropriate land on which to place the sign on the eastern end of Route 23.
 - b. There have been questions raised by some town residents about the need for new entry signs. The Committee recommended that all publicity relating to signs should emphasize that all funds used for the signs are private funds donated specifically for that purpose; no tax revenues will be used.
 - c. There was also agreement that the sign on the northern end of the Hamlet (at the intersection of Route 22 and Old Town Road West) should be moved slightly to make it easier for drivers on Old Town Road West to see north- and south-bound traffic on Route 22.
 - d. The Committee discussed how attractively John Boone and Chris Lockwood have maintained the north entry sign garden for the past two year and agreed that we would send John and Chris another thank-you letter.
4. Rail Trail – Tom Carty
 - a. At annual Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association meeting it was announced that paving of trail extension to Anthony Street in Hamlet could be delayed, due in part to slight change to grading required for a drainage pipe. Progress on the rail trail's underlayment is being made now.
 - b. A major campaign will be needed to obtain funding for tunnel under Route 22 and associated bridges over Roe Jan Creek, to connect the extension to the existing trail to the southeast.
5. Basketball Court Restoration

This project has gone much more slowly than anyone expected. We now have to review prices and specs again in light of higher than expected prices.

- a. Laura Griffin suggested that we survey Hamlet or town residents to determine their wishes for the Hamlet Park – and then proceed with improvements depending on results. The Affordable Housing Committee is working on a survey and Laura offered to use that experience to make suggestions for a short Hamlet Park survey.
- b. It was agreed that we would proceed as Laura suggested. We are hoping the survey will be successful in drawing out local resident opinion.

6. Pumpkin Festival/ Business Alliance and Hamlet Committee

- a. A successful bake sale at the festival brought in almost \$400 for use by the Committee.
- b. The Committee expressed gratitude to Matt White for his usual generosity by hosting the sale inside the Hillsdale General Store and out of the downpour.

7. Christmas Tree Lighting Dec. 3

- a. This is a Fire Department event; it does not appear that the Hamlet Committee has a significant role to play.

8. Memorial Day Weekend Flea Market 2017

- b. Date will be the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, with Sunday as rain date.
- c. Phyllis Ehrlich (committee member Mike Stertz's wife) has generously agreed to play a role in the planning process.
- d. There will be no community-donation table overseen by the Hamlet Committee, only vendor booths.

Next Hamlet Committee meeting will be held Saturday Dec. 10 at 9:00 am.

*****NOTE THAT TIME IS EARLIER THAN USUAL.*****