

Hillsdale Hamlet Committee Notes
Dec. 10, 2016, Town Hall

Members present: Lynda Brenner, Mike Stertz, Eileen Cohen, Tom Carty, Amelia Robedee-Sydlosky, Jeffrey Paige, Lex Lallie, Chair Bart Ziegler, Town Supervisor Peter Cipkowski

1. Notes from November meeting were approved.
2. Supervisor Cipkowski said the state DOT had approved issuing the sidewalk contract to the low bidder, Callanan, and that the DOT's goal is to have the work start first thing in the spring. Since the \$803,674 contract is about \$50,000 under the projected budget these extra funds possibly may be used to add additional streetlights to the job.
3. Mike Stertz said he met with one of the fabricators of the new town entrance signs, Jeff Budd, and he indicated a willingness to improve the price. Mike also said he would have a further discussion with Mr. Budd on the durability of the metal coating of the sign poles and framing.
4. Rail trail: Work on putting down the base layer of the trail has begun, though the asphalt isn't expected to be laid until the spring due to the weather.

The Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association recently won a state grant of \$285,000 that will pay for a professional design plan and permitting for the link between the Hillsdale section of the trail and the existing trail that ends at Orphan Farm Road in Copake. Tom Carty said the fact the state awarded this grant shows a willingness to see the project through to the construction of the link, which will involve a tunnel under Route 22.

5. The committee discussed whether it should speak to grant writer Victor Cornelius (who helped the town obtain the sidewalk funding) about future projects, such as the possible purchase of vacant property along the north side of Route 23 for use as a town parking lot. There was also a discussion of what the committee could do to help find a new use for the former Taconic Hills School.

6. The committee discussed the welcome news that there were interested buyers for both Hillsdale House and the former B&G wine store building, though nothing was firm.
7. Peter said he will help look into bids to repair the basketball court in Hamlet Park.
8. Lex and Peter told the committee about plans by a nonprofit group formed by local residents that is in the process of buying the former toll house, which the committee also welcomed. Lex said a long-term goal is to have Route 23 designated an official historic route, which could bring added tourism to the town and attention to the toll house.
9. The committee's next meeting is **Saturday Jan. 14 at 9 a.m.**