

HILLSDALE HAMLET COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes for Saturday Sept. 30, 2017, 9 a.m., Town Hall

Present: Bart Ziegler, Jeff Paige, Tom Carty, Joan Walstein, Lynda Brenner, Mike Stertz, Eileen Cohen, Laura Griffin.

1. Approved minutes from last meeting.
2. Sidewalks and streetlights: Status of streetlight dedication at Pumpkin Festival proposed by Town Board: we are awaiting action by NYSEG that will allow us to light them. Robina Ward is handling this.
3. Other Town Board news: The annual budget process is beginning in October. Discussion whether the Hamlet Committee needs to spend any of its town-allocated funds before this fiscal year is over.
4. New town signs: Installation of north, south and west signs by Highway Department is complete and we thank them, and Tod Wohlfarth, for their hard work. Discussion regarding the size of the type on the back of the signs; evaluate if it is feasible to re-do the back in larger font.
Update on possible sites for east-of-hamlet entrance sign: Mike Stertz to make inquiries with a landowner.
Wayfinding sign pointing to rail trail: members wish to ensure that the sign and the writing are large enough to read.
Larger Town Hall sign: Bart will inquire as to whose responsibility it is to procure the new sign, as well as obtain funding for it. The new, small sign will be re-purposed elsewhere on the Town Hall property.
5. New town branding/design subcommittee formed, comprised of Tod Wohlfarth, Matthew White and Robina Ward. Approval by this group is needed for Hamlet Committee to buy swag (caps, hats, mugs, etc.) with new Hillsdale logo for sale. Group also will approve designs of flags for new streetlight poles, wayfinding signs, etc.

Bart to inquire the reporting structure for this subcommittee (under Town Board or under Hamlet Committee?).

6. Pumpkin Festival Saturday Oct. 7: Committee to help organize bake sale (Joan and Lynda). Table staffing is all set. Lynda to send out more recruitment emails, Bart to reach out to Pastor Mary, Laura to post on Hillsdale FB page, Peter posted on Hillsdale website.

7. Status of building steps or platform to Town Hall Park from new sidewalk: Donated funds are available (\$4,518) being held in a Town Hall Park account. Tom and Lynda to work together on this during the winter.

8. Appointing a treasurer for the committee: Bart nominated Tom Carty for this position, and this was accepted by Tom and the attendees. Tom distributed a simple accounting of the Hamlet Committee Development, Beautification, and Town Hall Park accounts. Minor revisions will be made then the information will be shared again.

9. Town Board's plan for a town-wide meeting this fall to discuss longer-range goals for Hillsdale: Bart listed possible projects as additional sidewalks, reconfiguration of Route 22/23 intersection, parking or other use for vacant land on north side of Main Street, and asked the attendees to think about their own suggestions as well.

10: Hamlet commercial buildings and businesses: It was reported that the old auto garage across from O's Diner has been purchased and the trailer removed. It is not yet confirmed what the building's new use will be.

It was noted that the small house, owned by Matthew White, to the east of HGS Home Chef has been demolished, with plans to rebuild it with historical accuracy to the 1880s. The understood plans are to lease/rent it to be used as a business. It is unknown what progress has been made on the renovation of the Hillsdale House.

11. New business:

Food Pantry: Eileen Cohen made a request/suggestion that the Roe Jan Food Pantry be designated as the beneficiary of a future Hamlet Committee fundraising effort. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Rail Trail: Mike Stertz reported a serious traffic hazard at the intersection of Underhill Road and the new section of the rail trail. He indicated that bike riders are speeding across Underhill without obeying the stop sign. Since there is no stop sign on Underhill, drivers are unaware of the possible rider; Mike reports witnessing a near-accident. Tom agreed to investigate this complaint and take necessary action.

12. Next meeting: Saturday, October 28 at 9 a.m. in Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15AM.

