



**Hyde Park, VT**  
**Historic Sites Committee**  
*(a work committee of the Hyde Park Town Planning Commission)*

**MINUTES**

Monday, July 22, 2019

Meeting Held at Gihon Valley Hall, 5503 VT100

Members: Monica Heath, Jim Heath, Liz Courtney; Allen Spitzer  
Guests: Andy Race, Laura Race, Lindsay Reese, Dale Porter, Aaron McGee  
Staff: Ron Rodjenski

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1. **Welcome:** Jim welcomed everyone at 5:35 p.m.
2. **Parking:** Monica reported that the red house next door is indeed in foreclosure and there is a public auction happening Aug 6th at noon that we can attend to learn more and explore the possibility of obtaining the property for use as a parking lot. There is still about \$137K owed to Nationstar (dba Mr. Cooper) the mortgage company. Al and Monica plan to attend the auction, and anyone else who can make it should attend to show support for the possibility of the town getting the property on the cheap.
3. **Valley Hotel:** Ron reported that on Aug 6th at 3pm the regional planning office is considering the Town's request to begin a Phase 1 brownfield assessment for the Hotel property (5525 VT100), north of the hall, which is another potential parking lot location. Al said he could attend.
4. **Historic Markers:** Ron clarified that there's no deadline for the opportunity to apply to get an historic marker sign for North Hyde Park, so we'll table that discussion until a later date. Probably better to happen after roof construction is wrapped up.
5. **Municipal Planning Grant:** Applications are due October 1<sup>st</sup>. This funding would allow the hiring of a consultant to help us build out a comprehensive plan that would serve as a strategy for our committee and be a useful tool for subsequent grant applications. The committee agreed that it's worth inviting Eden to apply with us -- would improve our chances of approval. Lindsay offered to help write the grant (as she does this professionally), Liz offered to help provide content to Lindsay. Immediate next step is attending an upcoming Eden select board meeting to find out if they'd like to collaborate. *Note: The Eden Selectboard meets at 6:00 pm on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month at the Town Office, 71 Old Schoolhouse Road, Eden Mills, VT 05653. Recommend we confirm at our next meeting who can attend the Aug 13 meeting and what our talking points will be.*
6. **Roof Repair:** Jim is in touch with Dean Trombly (Silver Ridge Construction) who we've selected to do the roof work. Dean will provide his W-9 and insurance certificate; Ron has drafted a contract; and our committee has given Jim the OK to sign off on the contract on our behalf. Work will begin October 1st and we'll likely pay 50% up front deposit.
7. **Other Repairs / Safety:** All fire code safety measures have been met to allow us to open the 1st floor only for events. For electrical repairs and safety measures needed for other parts of the building, Jim is getting in touch with three contractors who can provide estimates so we can budget accordingly. Any contractor work over \$10K would require we issue an RFP before selecting a contractor.

8. **Traffic Study:** Rob Moore with Lamoille County Planning Commission can provide more info on how those who live in the NHP neighborhood can volunteer to do a traffic study to help us make the case for the state to invest in traffic calming measures and street-scaping in our village. While it was originally suggested we speak with Rob at the September planning commission meeting, Ron suggested we invite Rob to attend one of our August committee meetings instead so we can move things along. Ron will reach out to Rob.
9. **Event Planning:** We discussed concepts and dates for two potential events to kick off programming at the Gihon Valley Hall this summer & fall.
  - Open House to blow off the dust! Aug 24 or 25. Activities (and select person(s) leading)
  - Historic photo and artifact display and memory board (Jim & Monica)
  - Guided building tours of upper floors (TBD)
  - Treats table with a donation box (Liz, Lindsay, Andy & Laura)
  - Ben & Jerry's donation? (Dale, could you investigate?)
  - Food truck? (Liz will see if Fire & Slice from Eden might be interested or available)
  - Live background music (Liz's husband Zeph's jazz trio; other suggestions also welcome)
  - Promotion via free channels, ie: News & Citizen article, social media, flyers (Liz)
  - Promotional sign on the lawn (Dale repaint the Old Timers sign?)
  - Pre-event clean up (Aaron will see if he can recruit his soccer team kids)
  - Harvest Hootenanny / Foliage Fest. Sept 14, 15, 22, 28 or 29 TBD (Hyde Park Home Day is Sept 21) music for all ages
    - Al will contact Edna Lafountain who organizes the old timer music jams to see if they'd like to participate
    - Liz will start reaching out to other potential music acts for all ages
    - Andy and Laura have a PA we could use
    - Would be great to get a donated piano for this or in the future
    - other specifics TBD -- discuss next meeting
  - Discussed having a craft fair in October between the farmers market and holiday fair seasons
  - A successful haunted house that was at the hall in the early aughts; something we might bring back
  - The need for Wi-Fi in the building once we start doing more events
  - Ron connecting with the sheriff's dept re: traffic management once dates are confirmed
  - Not forgetting to turn on the water in the building before these events!
10. **Building Tour** – Al provided a tour around the building for those interested.
11. **Next Meeting:** Monday, August 12, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at the Gihon Valley Hall. Discuss Fall events.
12. **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. – Met downstairs with Town Planning Commission