

**DOWNTOWN ADVISORY BOARD**

**Work Session**

**May 10, 2023**

**8:30AM**

Attendance:

- Jerry Michael, Amy Catania, KT Stiles, Jacob Kipping, CJ Hagmann  
Also Attending: Cassandra Hopkins, Village Staff; Kelly Brunette, Ex-Officio Member

1. Approval of April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes by CJ Hagmann, seconded by Jacob Kipping.
2. Walk and Talk Introduction- The DAB members had, in the past, in an effort to be more in the know about what is happening downtown, used meeting time each month to walk sections of Downtown and talk through anything that came up. This helps to find out where the Village, Franklin County, or the State might need to dedicate resources, or bring something to the attention of a Downtown business or property owner. Jerry Michael stated that the Walk and Talk today will take DAB along Church St., Woodruff St., Bloomingdale Ave., and back along Broadway, and that DAB members are welcome to bring up anything as they move along. He stated that they can continue to do this to cover different areas of Downtown as they see fit.
3. Community Clean Up Downtown Day is this Saturday. Kelly Brunette spoke with the Village's Parks Manager, Andy Testo, and has a revised list of locations to suggest for volunteers to clean up around the Village. Jerry Michael said that DAB takes the lead on this event, although it has not been done in a couple of years, and that it should be a good turnout. He stated that he is working with Jake Widrick to get something ready for spreading the word about the Broadway Bridge and getting more support to bring to Franklin County for its repainting. Everyone is encouraged to come out this Saturday, anytime from 10am to 1pm, Jerry will be there as well as Kelly, meet at the Berkeley Green and go from there with trash bags and gloves.
4. Village Board Update there is a Special Meeting for the purpose of a Community Choice Aggregation Information Session with a representative from Joule Community Power next Monday. There will be a public hearing at the following Monday's meeting, the 22<sup>nd</sup>, for the draft STR Law. The Board recently adopted a resolution to go back to the original design plans for Baldwin Park which does not include keeping a court. Jacob Kipping asked about keeping the fishing pier. Cassandra Hopkins stated that the boat docks are to remain in the design. Kelly Brunette stated that the Board is moving forward with seeking engineered plans to potentially create a rail trail connection along Woodruff St.
5. Community Development Update of various construction schedules for current DRI projects and one project that is back on, the extension of the Riverwalk with an easement from the Tops property owner. The schedule will continue to be shared around as it is updated. Jerry Michael asked if anyone knew about the timeline moving forward for the brewery on Woodruff St. and if they have a building permit yet. Kelly Brunette shared that there will be demolition taking place starting June 1<sup>st</sup> on Academy St. for the Black Mountain Architecture rebuild of their office space, and that they were part of the DRI as they received Energize Downtown money.

6. Banner Program was discussed as there are a new set of banners to be put up at some point and the schedule needs to be edited to allow for the new banners and any other adjustments that DAB would like to make to the current schedule. Jerry Michael worked off of the current schedule to make adjustments to eliminate the mosaics and add-in the new banners. Amy Catania advocated for the creation of winter banners that include Winter Carnival. Cassandra Hopkins stated that the language in the Banner Program as its written now allows for the addition of a set of winter banners, and that the current months have the Support Local banners that the Chamber came up with.
7. Saranac Lake History included a few tidbits from walking around town, where DAB ended the meeting at the Berkeley Green, Amy Catania shared that the former hotel burned down in the '70's and had previously burned once before, had a sign atop the hotel that actually was a misspelling of Berkeley.
8. Other

Amy Catania shared the plans for the renovation of the Trudeau Building which will become part of the Historic Saranac Lake 'Museum Campus.' She shared details on renovation and restoration plans, in particular for the front façade and windows. She stated that they are currently working with a contractor on potential pricing, but that they hope to start construction this summer and to have the project wrapped up by the end of 2024.

Kt Stiles shared the plans for the renovation of the Dew Drop and that they now have to go before the Development Board with a Site Plan amendment from what the previous plans were with the previous owner. Shae shared that the sign is being restored and will be put back out.

Tim Fortune, a former member of DAB, joined the Walk and Talk and shared the overall intentions of getting out and involved as DAB has done in previous years.

Jerry Michael shared efforts that have been made to bring attention to items that have been discovered on the Walk and Talks previously, namely the Broadway Bridge and the Pocket Park at Bloomingdale Ave. and Church St.