

DOWNTOWN ADVISORY BOARD

Work Session

October 12, 2022

9AM

Attendance:

- Jacob Kipping, Sue Smith Zukin, Amy Catania, Jerry Michael, and Jess Ackerson
Also Attending: Village Staff: Cassandra Hopkins and Jamie Konkoski.
- 1. Approval of September 14, 2022 meeting summary by Sue Smith Zukin and Jacob Kipping.
- 2. Board Member Terms were discussed as there are terms that expire at the end of the year. Jess Ackerson will not renew her term with DAB. Jerry Michael to check in with Kathy Steinbrueck and CJ Hagmann. The Board brainstormed individuals in the community that meet the Board Member Qualifications, outreach to start once Cassandra Hopkins and Jamie Konkoski draft a press release.
- 3. WiFi Update: No update on installation at other parks. The Berkeley Green is anticipated to get WiFi next. Jerry Michael stated that the WiFi Update will stay on as a monthly agenda item for now.
- 4. Village Board Update: The Village Board called for a Public Hearing to introduce a Local Law Amendment to chapter 232-2 of the Village Code regarding snowmobile access in Downtown Saranac Lake. Jacob Kipping stated that with the Amendment the Hotel Saranac will plan to allow snowmobile parking in the Hotel Saranac's parking lot. Jerry Michael suggested finding an avenue to get out educational materials, maybe use the Franklin County Snowmobile Club?
- 5. Halloween- Flyer available for businesses to place on storefront to indicate trick or treating on Oct. 31st from 3 to 5pm. Cassandra Hopkins added that the SLPD will close the road for this event.
- 6. DRI Update: Jamie Konkoski gave an update on the current status of each DRI Project that has broken ground, and where the projects are that have yet to break ground. The Saranac Lake Whitewater feature project is waiting on a contract from the Department of State. The street trees section of the Main and Broadway intersection will start construction in the spring. William Morris Park work has started again after delay due to Department of Transportation permitting. The Woodruff Street segment is still in pre-construction phase and we are waiting on updated cost estimates.
- 7. Community Development Update: Downtown Mural Makeover is complete; an official ribbon cutting will take place at the Mural this afternoon. Energize Lake Flower Business District grant program to launch, DAB members will receive a press release email next week. This grant is for businesses within the target zone to get help with onsite work. The Village's Climate Smart Communities Task Force is in the midst of an education campaign about cold climate heat pumps with the potential to earn money for the Village if four are installed (commercial or residential) during the campaign. The Baldwin Park redesign is still on hold pending further direction from the Village Board. An Arts and Culture Advisory Board sub-committee proposed the use of the Village budget line item- Community Enhancement Fund (\$10,000) for a search for a public art installation in Riverside, Riverfront or Prescott Park. DAB members discussed this proposal and are okay with Jamie Konkoski submitting it to the Village Board. The section of roadway that connects Church Street to Pine Street that intersects with the railroad bed (Dugway or Main Street) was included in a comprehensive plan years ago, but to date no

engineering has been done about actual feasibility for a sidewalk. The Village has a Complete Streets Policy if any work gets done along that stretch.

8. Rail Trail Update: Jamie Konkoski will reach out to her DEC contact and report back on the possibility of a DEC representative attending a meeting as a guest speaker. The Adirondack Rail Trail Association is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization that advocates for the rail trail system between Tupper Lake and Lake Placid. Amy Catania asked about any progress with talking to state representatives about what will be done with the Depot building.
9. Saranac Lake History is a new agenda item for Amy Catania (and any other DAB member) to share a piece of Saranac Lake's rich history. This month, Amy Catania shared that the town's first high school was located at the site of the Hotel Saranac.