

DOWNTOWN ADVISORY BOARD

Work Session
January 11, 2023
8:30AM

Attendance:

- Jacob Kipping, KT Stiles, Jerry Michael, Kathy Steinbrueck, Mark Coleman, Jake Widrick, Amy Catania, and Sue Smith Zudin
Via Zoom: Kelly Brunette
Also Attending: Cassandra Hopkins, Village Staff

1. Approval of December 14th meeting minutes by Kathy Steinbrueck, seconded by KT Stiles.
2. WiFi Update: William Morris Park is the next park for installation out of the remaining locations where the Village's contract with SLICC dictates that WiFi be installed. The Berkeley Green installation will take place after the work is completed on the public restrooms project.
3. Village Board Update- For the draft Cannabis Law, a public hearing was held at the January 9th Village Board meeting, during which there weren't any comments made. The next step is to go to a vote or hold a second public hearing if revisions are made to the draft law. Short term rental regulations for the Village are still being workshopped at meetings and work sessions. One topic that was brought up during a public comment was local residents' concern over growing snowmobile traffic and noise.
4. DRI Update- Construction projects are shut down for the winter and will resume in the spring. Village Board is waiting for an update on an easement from the Grand Union property owner for the potential Riverwalk Extension. The final design for Woodruff Street West is on hold until relocation of all of the overhead utilities is confirmed. While there was not funding for an installation, the Ward Plumadore Park DRI plans do create the opportunity for more public art in that park. Kelly Brunette stated that throughout the early phases of DRI construction some trees have been removed, but that more shade trees will be added to the parks.
Amy Catania shared that Historic Saranac Lake (another DRI recipient) is going out to bid in the next week for the Trudeau Building project, and that they have been working with a consultant group to get that ready to go out to bid. DAB would like an update on the Pendragon Theatre project.
5. Community Development Update- The Energize Lake Flower grant applications are due tomorrow for the North Elba portion of River Street and Lake Flower Ave
Kathy Steinbrueck asked about the timeline of that grant and any news on what has been submitted so far. Cassandra Hopkins shared that the review of all applications will be done in the next several weeks within a chosen committee and award announcements will be made next month, with the goal that projects will be complete by December 31st. For the call for public art proposals for Prescott and Riverfront Park, there have been five proposals submitted. Pendragon Theatre is applying for a Restore NY grant and a public hearing was held with no public comment at the most recent Village Board meeting.

6. Review Annual Report- Jerry Michael gave an update on the annual report and what DAB has worked on in the past, including the 'walk and talks' around the downtown streets, the work done by DAB members on a draft law for food trucks, and discussion on the concept of setting up sidewalk cafes/parklets on downtown sidewalks. DAB members to review and contribute where applicable to the Annual Report.
7. Rail Trail Update- Meeting with ARTA and DEC representatives scheduled for the 18th to discuss Rail Trail opportunities. Kelly Brunette stated that the Village budget includes \$25,000 to Rail Trail amenities and that it is time to take on planning these amenities, whether it's signage, Depot area connections, or other amenities. Amy Catania stated that she had heard from the state that they can't sell the Depot building, but that they can lease it and have already gotten some inquiries. She added that Historic Saranac Lake does have some rail corridor interpretative signage for when the state may need it. Jerry Michael stated the potential need for additional signage, especially where the Rail Trail intersects Village streets.
8. Saranac Lake History- 9 River Street was once a bowling ally in Saranac Lake.
9. Other- Cassandra Hopkins to draft a letter to Franklin County regarding repainting the Broadway bridge as has been discussed since the 'walk and talk' meeting. She will also bring back to the attention of the Village Manager the work that was done last year on a draft food truck law. KT Stiles stated that she just closed on a deal to sell Pizza Hut. Jake Widrick stated that the library will be looking to complete phase 1 of a project this summer which involves installation of a new roof. Kathy Steinbrueck stated that Scotts Florist plans to operate through this summer and will be submitting a bid for the Downtown flowers.