



Helderberg Hilltowns Association

PROMOTING OUR FARMS, BUSINESSES, CULTURE, AND RECREATION IN BERNE, KNOX, RENSSELAERVILLE, AND WESTERLO, NY

www.Hilltowns.org

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Meeting Minutes **DRAFT**

November 21, 2016

Present: Zenie Gladieux, Jonathan Lane, Amy Pokorny, Dee Woessner, Bill Donato, Dawn Jordan;
Gerry Chartier via conference call

Next meeting: January 16, 2017 at 7PM

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1. Administrative
 - a. Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM
 - b. Minutes of October 17 meeting: approved as amended
 - c. Treasurer's report: in October paid \$115 to Albany County Convention & Visitors Bureau for annual dues, in November paid \$84 for PO Box annual fee. Balance \$2532.32: approved as submitted
 2. Historical Summit Meeting
 - a. Meeting was a great success and generated a lot of interest
 - b. Bill Donato reported that the Guilderland Historical Society is interested in joining – he will get contact info.
 - c. Next meeting is scheduled for March 4 in Berne
 - d. Gerry was not able to attend but had some thoughts
 - i. Liked topics chosen for 2017: local industries, 2018: Anti Rent Wars – suggested doing a “Life Under the Patroonship” angle
 - ii. Asked about oral history – Knox has done some; Berne Library has a memoirs class
 - iii. Willard Osterhout needs help with his Hilltowns website – Dawn will get info and put in eNewsletter; Berne Courier
 3. ACCVB Hospitality Breakfast at Hilton Hotel – Amy
 - a. Rivers Casino opens in Schenectady on February
 - b. Molly Belmont is new marketing director
 - c. Showed video of with stills of Hilltowns – only had a few – they are lacking photos and info on the Hilltowns
 - d. New convention center opening in March – will afford lots of opportunity to advertise
 - i. Info for taxi drivers to increase tourist access
 - ii. Package some Hilltown tours
 - e. Albany out many self-watering flower pots to beautify streets
 - i. An idea we could copy – perhaps pollinator gardens – grants may be available
 7. Website – Jonathan
 - a. We still need a webmaster
 - b. Wordpress
 - i. Free version or to remove ads is \$2+/month
 - ii. Domain mapping is \$13/year – would be able to have URL of Hilltowns.org rather than Hilltowns.wordpress.com
 - iii. Five forwarding email addresses for free
 - iv. With Zohomail – 25 email addresses for free, saves a copy on their server
 - v. Will move info over to new website, then work on changes
 - vi. Members need to go through current website for things that need updates
 8. Election
 - a. Jonathan and Zenie gave short presentations
 - b. Ballot for President – Zenie
 - c. Vice President spot vacant, Amy and Dawn will remain as Treasurer and Secretary respectively
 9. Teleconference with cell phones – worked, but we need better audio
 10. Planning and Goals for 2017
 - a. Meeting dates: January 16, February 20, March 13, April 17, May 15, June 19, July 17, August 21, September 11*, October 16, November 27*, December – no meeting. *meeting date not 3rd Monday of the month
 - b. Fall Into Knox – September 9, 10
 - i. Will need one or two people who are familiar with our events and tours
 - c. Historical Summit meeting scheduled for September 9 will have to be changed
 - d. Committees and chairs – will address at January meeting
 - e. Publicity – will address at January meeting
 11. Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Jordan
Secretary