

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT – APRIL 2020**

### **Planned and Proposed Upcoming Economic Development Projects**

1. Municipal parking lot lighting project – To be completed Spring 2020
2. Van Buren Hall Renovation and Grant Funding
3. Kinderhook Creek Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan
4. Kayak launch planning, design, construction – Hudson Valley Greenway award grant – announcement uncertain.

### **Promotion**

1. Continued restocking display of Native Son brochures.
2. Continued posting news and events about Kinderhook events and businesses on Nextdoor Kinderhook, Facebook, IMBY.com, and Instagram.
3. Worked with Julie and Theo Fels to adapt a graphic for Meals to Go – Kinderhook and place one-month paid Facebook advertising.
4. Posted information on social media about Kinderhook food and drink services.

### **Event Planning and Promotion**

1. Planning for a possible Kinderhook restaurant/pub crawl put on hold.
2. Food Truck Village in June to be cancelled. Planning for Food Truck Village in August put on hold.

### **Historic Kinderhook Walking and Bicycling Tour Brochure**

1. Grant Awarded for brochure redesign and rebranding: June 12, 2019  
Total Project: \$2,750 Grant Award: \$1,375
2. Sent out for second bid on brochure printing to Shear Color Printing. Received bid from Shear Printing. Printing to be awarded to Shear Color Printing.
3. Printing postponed until June 2020. To be printed in 2020 fiscal year.
4. Distribution with Berkshire Brochure for distribution of 5,000 brochures in Capital Region and Berkshire County zones to be determined.

### **Community/Business Outreach**

1. Continued liaison and social-media promotional efforts.
2. Continued discussions with Code Enforcement officer Peter Bujanow on the issue of vacant buildings in business district.
3. Discussed patio issues on Broad Street with P. Calcagno.
4. Coordinated with C. Vandenburg on information about 2020 Census for email blast.

### **COVID-19 Community Outreach**

1. Distributed information on SBA and Columbia County–sponsored small-business emergency loans and grants to Kinderhook businesses via email blasts, direct emails, and social media.
2. Commenced daily postings and on-going email blasts from village and on Nextdoor Kinderhook and Facebook concerning Columbia County Department of Health COVID-19 updates.

3. Kept up to date on information in the media concerning COVID-19 issues and distributed as warranted via email blasts and social media.
4. Proposed signage for village square and Rothermel Park encouraging wearing of masks and social distancing in public spaces.
5. Discussed signage installation with R. Meehan.
6. Contacted by Columbia County Office of the Aging concerning volunteer aid group for Town of Kinderhook seniors and the disabled. Contacted Dorene Weir to invite her to act as coordinator. Liaisoned with Dorene to help her establish Help 4 You.
7. Arranged for public-service announcement about Help 4 You on local radio and arranged for informational village email blasts on the project.
8. Coordinated CDC graphics on COVID-19 symptoms and practices for distribution and display at post office.
9. Participated in Columbia County Chamber of Commerce/Columbia County Economic Development Corporation Roundtable webinar on business issues concerning COVID-19 business closures.
10. Participated in Museum Association of New York webinar concerning issues about cultural institutions' re-opening challenges and COVID-19.
11. Explored with Sandi Meier her suggestion of an online gift-card project for local businesses.
12. Requested mask-wearing photos from Kinderhook photographer Siobhan Connally for use on social media for promoting mask wearing in the community. Thank you to Siobhan Connally for her generosity in donating the use of the photos.

### **Sister City Project – Buren in the Netherlands**

1. Expanding connections between the two communities put on hold.
2. Continued postings on Kinderhook-Buren Facebook page to share Kinderhook news with Buren and encourage Dutch tourism to Kinderhook.

### **Grant Availability**

1. Continued ongoing monitoring of notifications of NYS grant availability to make recommendations to village board.
2. Distributed relevant grant notifications to village board, local non-profits, and Climate Smart Task Force for their consideration.

### **Municipal Parking Lot Lighting Project**

1. Awaiting finalization of easement from Peter Cecchini for light fixture on Post Office property.
2. Liaisoned with Wolberg Electric and Vertex Lighting Solutions for updates and arrangements for delivery of light fixtures.
3. Liaisoned with Rob Meehan and Dave Booth to confirm arrangements for light installation.

### **Kinderhook Creek - Hudson River Valley Greenway Water Trail Grant + Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan NYS Department of State Grant**

1. Matching grant received (grant announcement postponed from December 11 to March 2020) from Hudson River Valley Greenway for \$10,000 for planning , design, and construction of two kayak launches – one in Valatie and one in Kinderhook. Total project cost: \$20,000.
2. Awaiting official announcement of Greenway Water Trail Grant.

### **Van Buren Hall**

1. Sent out request for fee estimates to prepare overall cost estimates for renovation project. Cost estimates to be used for upcoming grant applications.
2. Received a fee estimate from Danda Inc. - \$3,032.
3. Sent out request to James Romanchuk & Sons for a fee estimate but no reply.
4. Solicited additional names of qualified estimators from building inspector Peter Bujanow. Received additional names and contacted them for a bid with no success.

### **25 Chatham Street – Vacant Lot**

1. Contacted property owner to get information about post-demolition status and whether property owner could supply DEC paperwork. Determined that property owner has no additional paperwork concerning post-demolition status.
2. Next steps put on hold: (1) Contacting DEC to determine if there is any additional paperwork in their files post-demolition status. (2) Summarizing information for report to Board of Trustees.

### **Miscellaneous**

1. Commenced research on concept of village considering the development of a Complete Streets plan and met with Mayor Dunham to introduce the idea.
2. Continued assisting Matthew Kierstead (who is working with NYS on bike-trail signage) on sourcing historic photos for trail signage in Kinderhook.
3. Proposed **Fast Track Kinderhook** project to re-evaluate procedures and coordination of village boards: planning, zoning, HPC.
4. Ordered 2020 seasonal flower plantings for village square from Samascott's Garden Market.
5. Liaisoned with Garden Club of Kinderhook to obtain mulch from village for village square planting beds.
6. Sourced planter boxes for Persons of Color Cemetery and advised on shrub choice.