

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT – MAY 2021

Proposed Long-term Economic Development Projects

1. Van Buren Hall Renovation and Grant Funding
2. Kinderhook Creek Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan LWRP – Awarded
3. Kayak launch planning, design, construction – Hudson River Valley Greenway – Grant Awarded

Promotion

1. Continued restocking display of Historic Kinderhook Village Walking & Bicycling Tour.
2. Continued posting news and events about Kinderhook events and businesses on Nextdoor Kinderhook, Facebook, IMBY.com, and Instagram.
3. Planning for Social-Media Promotional Effort Beginning Summer 2021
4. Researched regional town, village, and city Facebook community-board pages and requested membership for disseminating promotional information.

Historic Kinderhook Walking & Bicycling Tour

1. reviewed by Piwonka, Shur, and Birckmayer.
2. R. Shur completed editing of sample scripts and submitted to R. Piwonka.
3. R. Piwonka rewriting one sample script.

Community/Business Outreach

1. Continued discussions and support about village issues with Hat Factory LLC.
2. Distributed information on grants to old and new business owners.
3. Provided contact information for Martha Lane, business development director at CEDC, to a second business owner.
4. Requested second estimate for installation of one light post on Hat Factory property.
5. Contacted Assemblyman Jake Ashby's office and then provided future business operator with contact information for assistance.
6. Creating a sample official Village of Kinderhook Facebook page reassigned to R. Shur.
7. Passed on updated Columbia County demographic and real estate data to potential new business operator.
8. Submitted letter of support for 8 Broad Street Special-Use Permit.
9. Submitted observations to Planning Board Chairperson re: improving transparency for potential business owners concerning improving information about expected time frames, planning board process, and public hearings.
10. Provided information to new yoga instructor concerning applying for permission for use of village property.
11. Met with owner of new business – OK Pantry – to discuss bike racks and other mutual promotional efforts.
12. Publicized opening of “Feedback” at The School on social media.
13. Suggested that village take a subscription to Times Union to stay apprised of regional economic issues.

14. Drafted, submitted, and received answers to questions concerning easements and Hat Factory LLC from Mayor Leiser and Rob Fitzsimmons.
15. Forwarded answers re: easements to D. Waterston and Y. Ngo.

Traffic Issues and Complete Streets Related to Economic Development

1. Drafted and provided a summary of traffic-related issues to board members and Brian Murphy.
2. Had on-going discussions with Brian Murphy concerning speeding on roads data.
3. Met with Brian Murphy, Mark Browne, and Mike Abrams to discuss speed and truck-traffic issues.

COVID-19 Community Outreach

1. Continued daily postings and on-going email blasts from village and on Nextdoor Kinderhook and Facebook concerning Columbia County Department of Health COVID-19 updates.
2. Kept up to date on information in the media concerning COVID-19 issues and distributed as warranted via email blasts and social media.

Albany-Hudson Electric Trail

Mills Park

1. Helped to finalize new furniture order.
2. Arranged for photographs of bike-trail users at Mills Park for inclusion on village website and for promotional purposes.
3. Connected writer and WAMC contributor Ralph Gardner Jr. and Sigrid Gray for an interview for a piece to be aired about Mills Park on WAMC.

Sister City Project – Buren in the Netherlands

1. Communicated with Mark Hoffman in Buren about Buren's new mayor in preparation for composing an introductory letter from Kinderhook.
2. Received address for mailing Walking & Bicycling Tour brochures and Native Son brochures to new tourist-information location in Buren in The Netherlands.

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.

Tax Deductibility of Donations for Public Projects in Village

1. Received information from R. Fitzsimmons and village accountant concerning recurring tax-deductibility letter for ongoing electrical costs of village light post on private property with a potential easement agreement. Awaiting reply.
2. Prepared acknowledgment letter and receipt for an anonymous tax-deductible donation.

Municipal Parking Lot Lighting Project

1. Completed.

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

1. LWRP grant awarded.
2. Hudson River Valley Greenway Water Trail Grant - Official award announcement received – December 2020 for matching grant of \$10,000 for planning, design, and construction of 2 kayak launches – one in Valatie and one Kinderhook. Total project cost: \$20,000.
3. Passed on to Village Board information about new grant availability – Hudson River Valley Estuary – Department of Environmental Conservation.
4. Continued informal consultation with Ted Kolankowski and Bob Murphy of Barton & Loguidice about new grant opportunities.
5. Met with D. Leiser and D. Weir to discuss creek projects.
6. Prepared timeline of Kinderhook Creek grants and met with Nicole Heeder and Dorene Weir to discuss Greenway grant and LWRP processes.

Van Buren Hall

1. Next steps: Proposing a stand-alone project for air-conditioning project.
2. Solicited but not yet received feasibility and cost estimate for replacement of lift with elevator.

25 Chatham Street – Vacant Lot

1. Next steps 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.

Traffic & Economic Development

1. Researched and drafted information/discussion packet re: traffic, parking, speeding, Complete Streets and distributed to Mike Abrams and Brian Murphy for comment.
2. Meeting scheduled with M. Abrams and B. Murphy for May 14, 2021.
3. Contacted and communicated with representative of DOT concerning grant funding for Complete Streets planning (Jill Henck and Sandra Jobson).

Miscellaneous

1. Approached by D. Weir to research and identify grant availability for inclusive playground equipment. Currently researching for possible grants.
2. Made a recommendation to HPC that a folder be available in Village Hall with printed copy of list of properties in Historic Preservation District, copies of HPC applications for Certificates of Appropriateness, and other useful information that individuals and contractors may be seeking.
3. Contacted New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to get information about local laws addressing properties in historic districts and demolition.
4. Requested old pricing for rejuvenation of historic light posts in village square. (Not available.)