

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT – MARCH 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
4. Traffic Issues and Complete Streets as Related to Economic Development

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. Explored pricing for promotion of village on WAMC.
5. Gathered data on economic impacts of bicycle trails and shared with mayor and village trustees.

Historic Kinderhook Walking & Bicycling Tour

1. Contracting with Berkshire Brochure to distribute brochure to come.
2. Pricing completed for reprint for distribution by Berkshire Brochure.
3. In 2020, approximately 5,000 brochures were taken by public from displays in Albany, Columbia County, and the Berkshires
4. With trustee Mark Browne explored a self-standing post with brochure display at Rothermel and Valatie Trailhead parking lots.

Historic Kinderhook Walking & Bicycling Tour Digital app.

1. Awarded \$2,000 grant from Hudson River Valley Greenway National Heritage Area.
2. A. Birckmayer explored technical comparisons of various digital tour apps and prepared to create a pilot audio tour of select historic locations in village center.
3. R. Shur consulted on use of GeoTourist app with Communications Director at Art Omi.
4. R. Piwonka suggested properties around village square not included in brochure for composing script for pilot.
5. R. Shur, A. Birckmayer, and R. Piwonka determined that the village's audio tour will be hosted by GeoTourist.
6. Confirmation received for two volunteer narrators for the project.

Community/Business Outreach

1. Continued discussions and support about village issues with Hat Factory LLC.
2. Engaged in on-going multiple discussions with three potential business owners.
3. Distributed information on grants to old and new business owners.
4. Shared with Hat Factory LLC information about Federal Tax Credits for rehabilitation of historic properties.
5. Composed economic development news for Spring newsletter.

6. Shared data on housing market, changing regional demographics with incoming business owners.
7. Fielded multiple phone calls from potential business owners to answer questions about Kinderhook.
8. Responded to inquiry by a journalist for a recommendation of local individual to interview for an article about Empire State Trail to be published in National Geographic.
9. Continued ongoing discussions with The School re: The School's role in the community.

COVID-19 Community Outreach

1. 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.
2. Kept up to date on information in the media concerning COVID-19 issues and distributed as warranted via email blasts and social media.
3. Assisted in distribution of Columbia County Board of Supervisors' press releases re: COVID-19 when needed.

Albany-Hudson Electric Trail

1. With Mark Browne explored with Andy Beers inclusion of Kinderhook historic properties on Empire State Trail website.
2. Passed on to CCHS the information that their sites might qualify for inclusion on Empire State Trail website.

Mills Park

1. Shared with trustee Weir suggestion in consultation with Mills Park volunteers for unified plan for outdoor furniture at Mills Park and provided product sample sheets.
2. Consulted with Mark Browne re: wayfinding signage.

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.

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

Municipal Parking Lot Lighting Project

1. All aspects of project now completed.
2. Ongoing work on finding a proposed location for one light post that was not installed in municipal parking lot.

3. Contacted potential property site owner about feasibility of light post installation and Sheriff Electrical Services to get an estimate on installation of one light post.

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. Consulted informally with Ted Kolankowski and Bob Murphy of Barton & Loguidice about new grant opportunity.

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 packet and distributed to Mike Abrams and Brian Murphy for comment.

Miscellaneous

1. Liaisoned with Samascott's Garden Market re: 2021 village planting order.
2. Prepared and submitted 2021-22 Economic Development Budget.