

Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2025

Attendees: Sue Clary Kay Tomasi Thomas McMorris Al Cormier  
Speakers: Nic Stark (**Delaware and Hudson Rail Trail Council**)  
John Cullinan (**Local Businessman**)

**Nic Stark Discussion**

Mr. Stark works out of the above organization from Vermont. They are open to helping Salem review and potentially restart planning to expand the many but disparate trails we have in and about Salem. They have done this work around Rutland VT with significant success. Al, Kay, Tom and Sue were all instrumental in revisiting what earlier attempts to develop trails were. More discussion is needed to determine if we want to pursue this further and if so, over what timeframe.

**John Cullinan Discussion**

John is developing the property at the intersection of Routes 22 and 29, and shared his future vision for the property. He is also interested in obtaining an understanding of what other projects are underway or being considered for Salem, and we discussed several of them in some detail. Larry will send him the EDC overview document.

- i. **Master Comprehensive Plan** – Sue will try to get Allison Gaddy to speak at our March meeting.
- ii. **HHH** – Planned open remains targeted for 2<sup>nd</sup> Q 2025.

1. Project Updates

1. **Georgi** – Larry for Brenda

- i. The Hyde exhibit of the Georgi paintings opened to the public and will be available thru May 11,2025.
- ii. Chris Daly, who developed the Georgi painting pamphlet gave a presentation at the Hyde on Saturday, February 8 explaining how valuable these Georgi paintings are and how they relate to similar paintings by other artists during the same time period. A copy of the presentation is being requested to show others interested in the art and history.
- iii. Bookings for weddings continue to be made.
- iv. The current Georgi laptop has been issued to Sandi.

2. **Sewer** – Sue

- i. An alternative site has been identified and discussions to acquire are on-going.

3. **Climate Smart** – Sue/Larry(for John)

- i. The Salem Climate Smart committee has had two meetings with Josh Dranoff ( climate smart communities outreach coordinator) to score Salem’s existing activities toward climate work ( 100’s of potential activities we already or have done ) . With these points Salem can move from a silver community to a Bronze community and potentially be considered higher when funds are appropriated to communities for Climate Smart projects.
- ii. John and Larry held a telephone call with NYPA on the use of the landfill and gravel pit. Some of the issues with that area is that there would be an additional development cost to get Three-Phase lines installed and connected to the nearest existing Three-Phase lines. Estimated costs are \$1 million dollars/mile, and that site is about a mile to the next closest Three-Phase connection.

The old lumber yard near the CaroVail facility might be an alternative site, but needs to be looked at in more detail.

**FYI. It was announced by the Federal Government that no grants or credits would be used for installing electric car chargers.**

4. **Economic Development** - Larry

- i. Salem Food Store – Larry has been invited to speak with the Cambridge Co-Op Board on Wednesday February 12, 2025 to discuss including Salem residents in the Co-Op’s Point of Sale system for on-line ordering when implemented.
- ii. YMCA – In January, Larry has spoken with Scott Clark, Saratoga Springs CEO, to resume discussions about possible programs for Salem. Mr. Scott will reach out to Larry when he returns around mid-February when he returns from vacation.
- iii. Salem Trails – Al Cormier spoke with Mack Sanders of NE Rail to get current status information. Mack is going to call Larry to discuss further.

5. **Next Steps**

- i. Continue to schedule meetings with other groups

**Next Meeting: March 14, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at Salem Town Hall**