

TOWN OF CLAVEACK

JOINT MEETING WITH VILLAGE OF PHILMONT

HUDSON VALLEY RAIL TRAIL

July 09, 2012

A joint meeting between the Town of Claverack and the Village of Philmont was held at the Village Hall, Main Street, Philmont, Columbia County, New York. Meeting opened at 6:30 p.m. by Claverack Town Supervisor, Robin Andrews, who introduced Lenny Collins, who is working on a grant to assist in the planning and eventually extending the Harlem Valley Rail Trail to the Village of Philmont and Town of Claverack.

An essential part of the plan is in the Village of Philmont. Presently the trail is from Wassaic, 11 miles to Millerton, 8 miles to Undermountain Road and 4 miles to Bash Bish Falls.

The grant which they are seeking would assist in planning the extension from Preusser Road to Taghkanic State Parkway, to Philmont and into Chatham. The trail needs to be handicap accessible. Would be a total of 4 miles from Wassaic to Chatham and would be considered a multi-use trail, 10 feet wide and usually paved.

Studies show that there is economic activity growth along the trail routes.

Discussion centered around how this trail would affect privately owned land and the Road and Gun Clubs. It was also brought up that this is being promoted by special interest groups.

Bill Blaauw brought to the group's attention that Millerton has always been a vibrant community, even before the trail was in existence.

Group was told that the Village and Town should endorse the Consolidated Funding Grant. If the funds do not come to this area, it will go somewhere else.

Max Dannis stated he is very much in favor of this trail. More people will be locals than visitors, but there could be an increase in the economy of the Village.

There were concerns in reference to privately owned property along the trail. Mr. Collins stated they would not infringe on people's property, but would find a way around it. In Philmont, the people could go down Main Street and Maple Avenue, catching the trail again from Maple Avenue.

Dave Siter, representative from the Philmont Rod & Gun Club said that they had spoken with representatives and the trail should not interfere with their activities.

Many of those present stated they were in favor of going ahead with this plan.

Meeting closed at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Town Clerk