

Hyde Park Town Board members work as a team to improve the community: Letter

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(Photo: Poughkeepsie Journal)

When my wife and I bought our home in Hyde Park, we asked the owner if there were plans for a downtown. She said there's been talk for decades, but "people kept getting in their own way."

We came from a place where the town board constantly fought. Nothing positive ever happened during the eight years we lived there, and we concluded it was a town going nowhere, fast.

So it was a breath of fresh air to discover Hyde Park's Town Board members refer to themselves as a team. All five work together with one goal in mind: Creating wins for the town.

Our town board does many things behind the scenes that benefit us, but recently, the board initiated a very public project: The Downtown Initiative. Past boards talked about plans; this one is implementing theirs. The first phase is creating a walkable corridor on Route 9 to improve safety, and after landscaping/lighting is completed, it will create better curb appeal to attract new businesses. They are also developing a plan for a sewer system that will enable new restaurants.

It was disheartening to read the negative letter you published. ("New sidewalks in Hyde Park just lead to empty buildings, spaces" Aug. 21) (/story/opinion/letters/2017/08/21/new-sidewalks-hyde-park-just-lead-empty-buildings-spaces-letter/574507001/) If the authors think the town has the power to fill empty buildings, they are greatly mistaken. A town board can't force a tenant to move in nor force a landlord to accept a tenant. But it can make the areas surrounding these buildings more attractive and provide the kind of infrastructure new businesses may not be able to afford. And that is exactly what The Downtown Initiative will accomplish.

Neil Krupnick
Hyde Park

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