

Keep Rohr and her team so they can continue improving Hyde Park

The new sidewalks and trees along Route 9 make Hyde Park look like a town, rather than a strip of isolated buildings. This pretty streetscape is a reality because our town board envisioned a unified and walkable community, incorporated residents' and property owners' preferences into the design, and successfully competed for federal transportation money awarded through New York State. Then they navigated complicated federal requirements for the use of these funds in order to get the project installed.

Vision and hard work were also necessary to transform the blighted lot at Greentree corner, which the owner had abandoned because a \$400,000 lien imposed by the State for cleanup made it unmarketable. By negotiating a three-way agreement with Dutchess County and New York State, the town was able to demolish the old gas station, remediate the contaminated soil underneath, and plant an inviting greenspace.

I am grateful for the expertise and dedication of Aileen Rohr and her team: Emily Svenson, David Ray, Joe Marrison and Ken Schneider. They are now working to establish a sewer system in the commercial district, a necessary step if we are to attract a variety of businesses. Funding for sewer infrastructure is comparatively hard to come by, but through creativity and partnerships, the board is piecing it together.

Teamwork is paying off in Hyde Park, and voters will be wise to return these savvy leaders to office in November.

Beth Kolp

Hyde Park