

**Village of Irvington  
Board of Trustees' Priorities for 2023**

To All Our Fellow Residents,

At the beginning of each year, your Board of Trustees establishes its working priorities for the next twelve months. While the focus of our activities is subject to modification if major new developments emerge, we want to provide as clear a picture of our goals as we can at the outset of each year.

For 2023, the Board has outlined five broad areas of focus:

- Implementing Comprehensive Plan Recommendations
- Budgeting Soundly and Delivering Services Efficiently
- Improving the Downtown Business Environment and Economy
- Supporting Sustainable Policies and Practices
- Continuing to be a Welcoming and Inclusive Community

Each of these areas are encompassed in the outline below. We sincerely encourage your thoughts on our priorities and how best to implement them, and invite you to attend Board meetings and work sessions. The schedule and agendas are posted on the Village website, and all meetings are recorded and available for view. We also invite your participation as a volunteer on one of the Village's various committees, or in some other capacity appropriate for you.

**The Board of Trustees' Priorities and Specific Activities**

**WHAT WE WILL ACCOMPLISH IN 2023**

1. Address the need for housing options throughout the village, including multi-family housing.
2. Publicize the regulations and the way to apply for conversion to In-Law Suites and Accessory Apartments. Publicize the availability of affordable units in, or soon to be in, Irvington.
3. Plan for an expanded Fire House facility.
4. Renovate the Irvington Town Hall Theater HVAC system to expand the use of ITHT during the summer.
5. Move forward with the Astor Gateway and Buckhout Street traffic circulation project.
6. Pursue funding for stage in Matthiessen Park. Ensure that any development is resilient to climate change and sustainable.
7. Apply for Climate Smart Communities Certification Silver Certification and complete Hi Impact actions for the Clean Energy Communities program.
8. Work on initiatives to improve the Downtown Business District, which may include listening sessions with business owners or greater collaboration with the Rivertowns Chamber of Commerce or other stakeholders.
9. Focus on initiatives that promote diversity, equity and inclusion. Draw upon the community for assistance in identifying and planning DEI initiatives.
10. Re-evaluate upcoming gas-powered leaf blower ban.

## **WHAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK ON IN 2023**

### **Implementing Comprehensive Plan Recommendations**

- Implement aspects of the adopted Comprehensive Plan.
- Address spatial constraints at the DPW and continue relocation investigations.
- Implement a public education effort on currently available tax and business advantages available in the Historic District and advantages of the Local Landmark and Adaptive Re-use of Historic Properties Laws for qualified properties.

### **Budgeting Soundly and Delivering Services Efficiently**

- Review and enhance Village emergency preparedness, ensuring that climate resilience is considered.
- Continue a system of performance reviews for all department heads to encourage active, two-way feedback.
- Strengthen enforcement of the sidewalk maintenance law and focus on homeowner education.
- Update the process for building/renovation permits and site approvals, including an examination of the role of each land use board. Focus efforts to remove barriers to climate-beneficial improvements such as ground and air source heat pumps and solar.
- Commence and complete collective bargaining negotiations with the CSEA union

### **Improving the Downtown Business Environment and Economy**

- Complete infrastructure projects:
  - Advanced crosswalk technology.
  - South Astor Street station drop off and sidewalks
- Expand on our reputation as a film friendly Village to continue to attract film opportunities.
- Continue the placement of the approved design of way-finding signage throughout the Village.
- Continue efforts, such as Slow Down Irvington and Walk Safe Irvington, focused on improving traffic and pedestrian safety through education, physical changes to roads, sidewalks and paths and the enforcement of these initiatives.

### **Supporting Sustainable Policies and Practices**

- Integrate municipal sustainable policies, practices and commitments for all municipal employees, including training and accountability. Provide status updates to the Board of Trustees periodically.
- Encourage residential energy efficiency through communication, education and incentives.
- Implement a curb-side residential food scraps program, while coordinating with the County.
- Educate the public, new homeowners, realtors about sustainable landscaping. Incorporate these practices more completely into Village Public Works and Parks Departments.
- Continue the multi-municipal effort to update the Climate Action Plan, including the establishment of long-term building and fleet efficiency goals. Integrate the goals of the Climate Action Plan with all aspects of Village operations.

### **Continuing to be a Welcoming and Inclusive Community**

- Implement the recommendations from the Police Reform and Reimagining Plan. Define parameters of community/IPD joint committee.
- Pursue the creation of a memorial to Enslaved Africans on South Buckhout Street.
- Expand efforts to communicate to residents, workers and visitors in our Village that we value diversity of cultures, ideas, and traditions. Explore various ways to engage in active dialogue with a wide-range of individuals in the community on ways to move toward a fuller accomplishment of this goal. Consider village-supported events and ensure these values are reflected in village activities.
- Encourage increased volunteerism on committees, boards and working groups. Periodically review the mission and work of volunteer committees and provide support as needed. Encourage the participation of a diverse group of residents.
- Encourage residents' participation in the decision-making process and encourage residents to seek information through the Village's e-mail, web site and social media platforms. Include outreach to the school population when appropriate.

### **Long-term Goals**

1. Support inter-municipal and regional sustainability and climate-change planning efforts.
2. Undertake a phased, fiscally prudent implementation of recommendations contained within the Main Street Streetscape Design report beyond the current Astor Gateway Project.
3. Continue to expand zoning and other regulations and approaches that will help moderate-income individuals and families to be able to afford housing in Irvington.
4. Enhance long term Departmental planning and execution through improved communication with the Board of Trustees.
5. Support the activities of the business district by setting-up regular two-way communication with business groups (Chamber of Commerce and others).
6. Maintain and upgrade Village infrastructure including roads, sidewalks, storm drainage, and the water and sewer system.
7. Pursue connection to the County's RiverWalk and explore enhanced public access to the waterfront.
8. Work closely with local and regional tourism and development organizations, such as Historic Hudson River Towns and our neighboring villages, to develop programs and initiatives that will bring more visitors to Historic Irvington. Work closely with efforts related to regional tourism vis a vis the new Mario M. Cuomo Bridge bike and pedestrian path, with special attention to the needs of our small businesses and restaurants .Continue to encourage and implement on-line, Smart Phone apps, such as TravelStorys, and other technology efforts.
9. Review Village operations to ensure conformance with sustainability goals.
10. Support the efforts to implement appropriate measures recommended in the Route 9 Active Transportation Corridor study, including ways to leverage the Gov. Mario M. Cuomo Bridge Shared Use Path.

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