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LaFayette Community Development Committee News

At the start of 2022, the LaFayette Community Development Committee (LCDC) consisted of Bill McConnell, Town Supervisor, and Carole Dwyer, Town Councilor. As of March, it temporarily expanded to include:

- Dave Knapp, County Legislator
- Jeff Brown, Town Attorney
- Mark Distler, Town Deputy Supervisor
- Jeff Palin, VP of C&S, engineering consultant
- Kristin Collins, Architect of C&S
- Mike LaMontagne: C&S, Architect
- Keith Ewald, Program Manager of B&L, process & grant consultant
- Jeanie Gleisner-Earle, Program Manager of CNY RP&DB, community development consultant

This expanded committee was formed to plan the revitalization of the old LaFayette Hotel property. They are starting with: (1) envisioning the ultimate use of the property and (2) identifying potential grant and other funding opportunities.

At the March Town Board meeting, Supervisor McConnell described the following current activities:

- Purchase closing on the Hotel property on February 28
- Planned closing on March 10 of the former Mallette property adjacent to the Hotel property
- Planned soil remediation to be conducted on both properties in April

One of our goals is to primarily fund the revitalization through public grants. The purchases and work described above were and will be paid with a portion of the Town's ARPA grant. The LCDC is currently focused on preparing for additional grant applications due this summer.

The first decision the LCDC will make will be to rehabilitate or raze the hotel building. Currently, the LCDC has learned that rehabilitation is advantageous over razing and replacing with new because:

- It is less expensive (the building is in good structural condition),
- Grant opportunities are considerably greater for rehabilitations, and
- A historic building is more unique and will be a greater public attraction.

Given these advantages, the LCDC will be further evaluating the feasibility of wastewater treatment systems in order to assess what types of building occupancy are feasible. In the meantime, the LCDC is having preliminary discussions with potential development partners.

This is the first of several LCDC communications with our fellow residents. One of our other goals is to keep residents informed and eventually, when development options are properly vetted, ask for input on the options. So certainly more communication to come as progress on the properties continues.