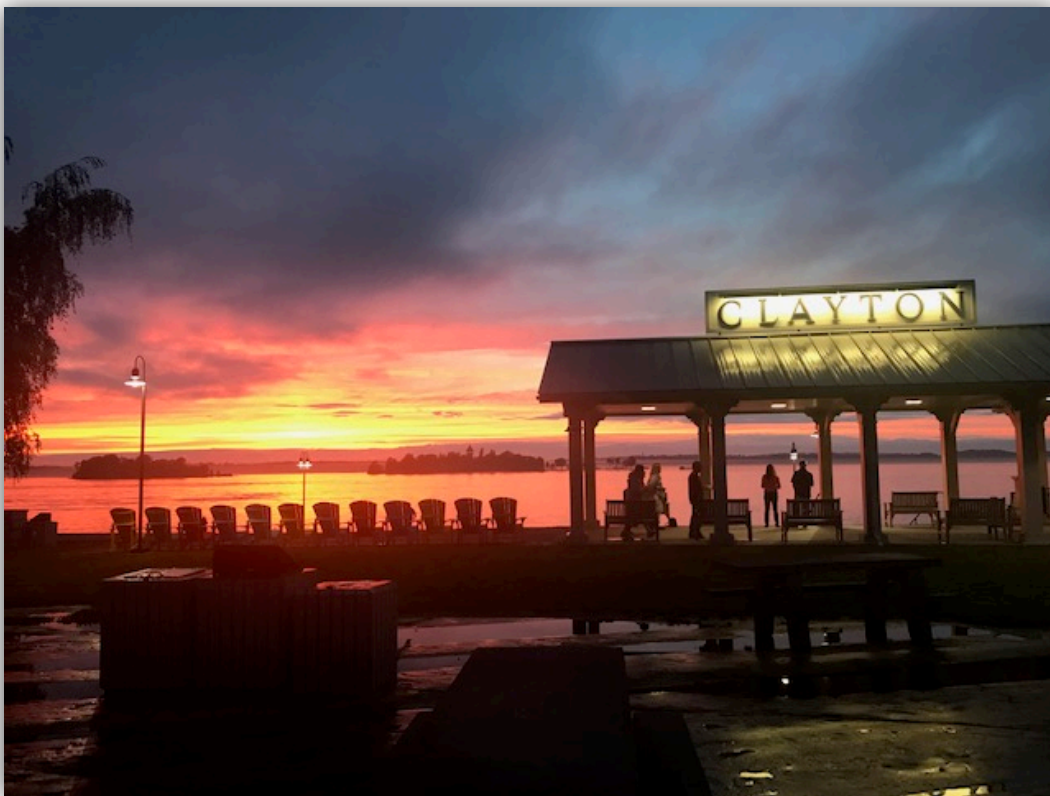


Clayton Local Development Corporation Annual Report 2019

CLDC Mission Statement:

The Clayton Local Development Corporation seeks to promote, provide and enhance employment opportunities and business development in the Town and Village of Clayton; and act in the public interest to improve the area's quality of life, to lessen the burdens of government, and to improve the economic welfare and prosperity of all residents.



CLDC Board Members 2019

Officers

Chairman

Jack Stopper, Weather Stopper

Vice-Chairman

Jamie Ganter, Retired Director of Media Operations Knowlton Technologies LCC

Treasurer

John Cooper, Territory Sales Manager, Reeb

Secretary

Dr. John Slattery, retired Superintendent of Schools for Thousand Islands Central School District, Community Member

Assistant Secretary

Christopher Bogenschutz, President of the Clayton Chamber of Commerce, Ex-Officio Member

Ex-Officio Members

Doug Rogers, Chairman of the Clayton Joint Planning Board, Ex-Officio Member

Norma Zimmer, Village of Clayton Mayor

Bobby Cantwell, Jefferson County Legislature, District #1

Michael Bashaw, Superintendent of Schools, Thousand Islands School District

Lance Peterson, Town of Clayton Supervisor

Community Members

Dennis Weller, retired President and Chief Executive Officer Structural Associates Inc.

Christine Powers, VP/Commercial Loan Officer, Watertown Savings Bank

Kylie Peck, President & CEO Greater Watertown North Country Chamber of Commerce

Executive Director

Kristi Dippel

2019 Highlights & Project Updates

Downtown Revitalization Initiative Application

In June 2019 a committee was formed as part of the Clayton LDC Strategic Plan to research and consider submitting an application to the NYS Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI). The committee has worked with local stakeholders, including the Town and Village boards, to compile a list of projects that could be considered transformational opportunities for the DRI application. The process will continue into 2020, with writing of the application, meetings with community for feedback, communication with stakeholders, and submittal of application in May/June 2020.

Resiliency and Economic Development Initiative (REDI)

The Clayton Local Development Corporation (CLDC) provided support to the Village of Clayton to determine a list of priority projects and submit those projects for REDI monies. The Village and Town hosted a presentation with Governor Cuomo and local representatives to hear the Regional awards. The representatives have been to many meetings with NYS government to understand the guidelines in order to execute the REDI monies.



Riverwalk 3

Construction of this NYS DOT and Village of Clayton project was completed in 2019, with the grant being closed out in the fall. Unfortunately due to the high water levels in 2019, the public was unable to use this new portion of the Riverwalk for a large portion of the year. A decorative fence was constructed as part of this project and will not be installed until the Historic District Infrastructure project is completed in 2021. This project continues the strategic plan for the Village of Clayton and enhances the shoreline of our community.

Historic District Infrastructure Improvement Project

The Clayton Local Development Corporation (CLDC) continued to work with the Village of Clayton, the Development Authority of the North Country and NY Department of Transportation to move this project forward in 2019. A contractor



was selected for the project in Spring of 2019, with construction starting just after Labor Day 2019. The project is expected to be complete by November of 2021. This will enhance our Village's main corridor and allow businesses to improve their properties without the burden of high powered energy lines several feet from their buildings. The CLDC partnered with Jefferson County LDC to develop a program for small loans to local businesses that may be impacted by the underground utilities project. The program was approved

by both parties in 2019 and will be offered in the Spring of 2020. The loan program includes a small revenue generating opportunity through a small application fee that will aid in ensuring the future financial sustainability of the CLDC.

Strategic Planning

The Strategic Plan was reviewed and updated in 2019. The Clayton LDC mission is to promote, provide and enhance employment opportunities and business development in the Town and Village of Clayton. Also, to act in the public interest to improve the area's quality of life, to lessen the burdens of government, and to improve the economic welfare and prosperity of all residents.

In the area of Marketing/Development, the CLDC supported a potential zoning change that would facilitate more comprehensive future development along the Town and Village borders. The CLDC has also supported the development of a trail system by the Thousand Islands Land Trust which will enhance our community. We feel it's important to communicate with the Village and Town Boards quarterly to educate them on the status of our goals and allow the CLDC to build relations with the community and its stakeholders.

In the area of finance, the CLDC continues to work to establish methods to strengthen the economic sustainability of the CLDC. In 2019 we worked with the Jefferson County LDC to establish a small loan program to aid businesses impacted by the underground utilities project that has a small application fee for the administration to the CLDC. We also worked with the Town board to gather increased support of the CLDC in the 2020 town budget.

In the area of Regionalization, the CLDC has been contacted by a local community to meet and discuss how we can assist and potentially collaborate with them. We also have supported a private trolley business to see if there are opportunities to assist their formation which will enhance transportation opportunities for three neighboring river communities.

The CLDC continues to work on Strategic areas associated with Human Resources of CLDC, Facilities efficiency, and other programs to assist organizations, businesses, and enhance tourism in our community.

CLDC GOALS FOR 2020

1. Work with the Village of Clayton and local businesses to submit a viable application to the 2020 NYS Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) program.
2. Continue to collaborate with the Village of Clayton, NYDOT, National Grid and local business owners to work toward undergrounding utilities along Riverside Drive to improve aesthetics and help boost tourism.
3. Support local businesses during the Historical District Infrastructure project, continuing to work with Jefferson County LDC on a small business loan program.
4. Continuing to work with local agencies and municipalities to expand and connect the local trail and walkway system, to include the Sissy Danforth Trail and Clayton Riverwalk.
5. Explore additional revenue generating activities to ensure the future sustainability of the CLDC.
6. Continue to update the recently approved Strategic Plan to accurately reflect the needs of the community and organization.
7. Continue to explore ways the LDC can support neighboring municipalities to strengthen the overall Thousand Islands region.
8. Actively work with the Town and Village to assure any development is consistent with the recently completed Comprehensive Plan.
9. Support the Village of Clayton in the implementation of the Resiliency Economic Development Initiative (REDI) program and FEMA funds that impact the shoreline.