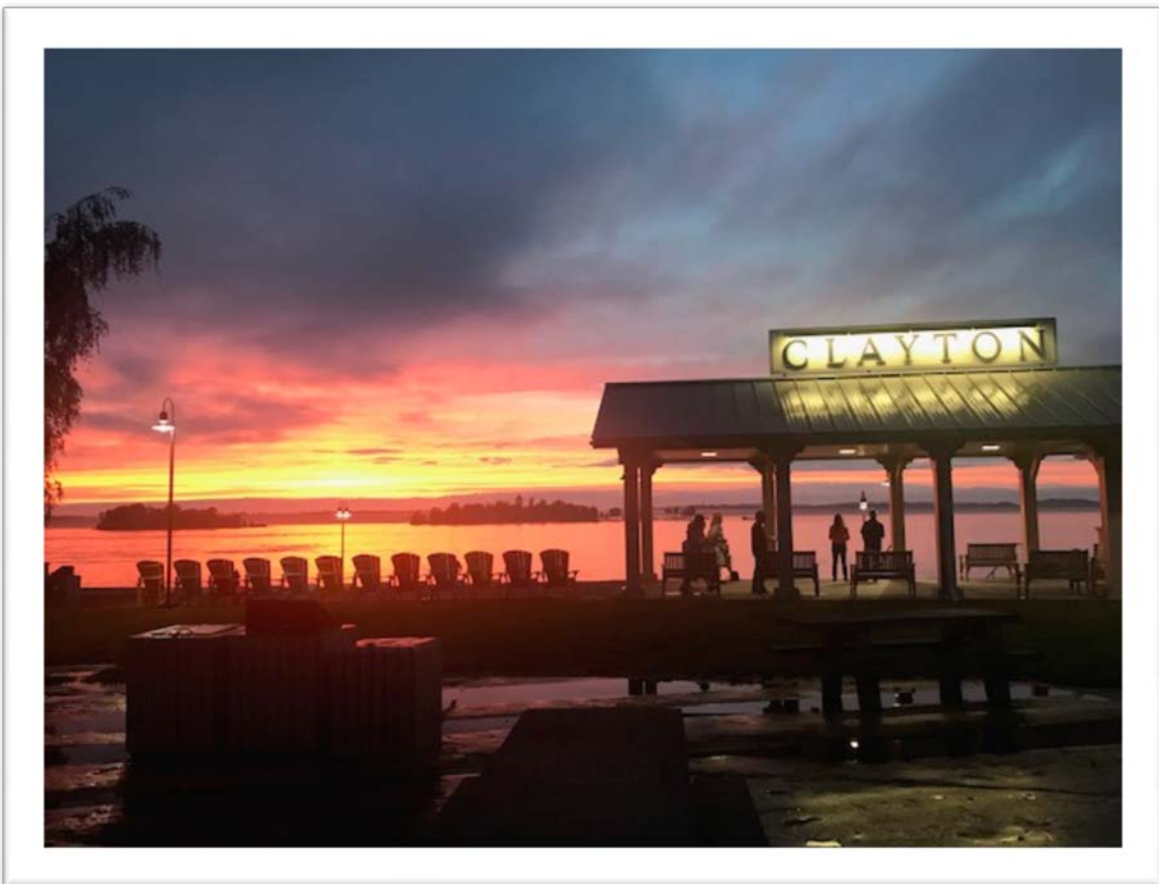


Clayton Local Development Corporation Annual Report 2020

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 2020

Officers

Acting Chairman and 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

Jack Stopper, Weather Stopper

Executive Director

Kristi Dippel

2020 Highlights & Project Updates

Historic District Infrastructure Improvement Project

The Clayton Local Development Corporation (CLDC) continued to work with all stakeholders to move this project forward during 2020. Construction continued throughout the year, resulting in the project being ahead of schedule. The CLDC supports the Village by administering a portion of the grant funding. The project is expected to be complete by Summer of 2021. The project will enhance the Village’s main corridor and allow businesses to improve their properties without the burden of high-powered energy lines. The CDLC worked with Jefferson County LDC to offer 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. The program was offered in late 2020. The delay in the offering was due to the Federal relief aid available to business owners. The loan proposal also allowed for a small revenue generating opportunity through a small application fee that will aid in ensuring the future financial sustainability of the CLDC.



Downtown Revitalization Initiative Application

A committee was formed in 2019 as part of the Strategic Plan to apply for the 2020 NYS Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI). The committee worked with local stakeholders, including local businesses, not for profits and the Town and Village boards, to gather potential projects and develop the basis for a strong application. The process continued into 2020, with writing of the application, meeting with the community for feedback, and communication with stakeholders. The DRI application process is currently on hold due to COVID-19 and the State's financial position.

Resiliency and Economic Development Initiative (REDI)

The Clayton Local Development Corporation (CLDC) worked with Town and Village boards to determine a list of priority projects and apply for REDI monies. The Village and Town received approval for a number of projects in 2020. Throughout 2020 the CLDC worked with the Village and their consultant to move the projects forward. They are currently completing permitting and engineering with projects potentially starting in late 2021.



Strategic Planning

The current Strategic Plan was developed in 2018 and updated in 2019. The organization's remains the same, which 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. There was limited activity in 2020 due to the COVID-19 restrictions. The Strategic Committee will be updating the plan in 2021 to reflect the upcoming five year strategy.

CLDC GOALS FOR 2021

1. Work with the Village of Clayton, the Town of Clayton and local businesses to submit viable applications to appropriate NYS and federal funding opportunities, to include the 2021 NYS Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) program if available.
2. Continue to collaborate with the Village of Clayton, NYDOT, National Grid and local business owners to work towards completing the underground utilities project 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. Support the Village of Clayton in the implementation of the Resiliency Economic Development Initiative (REDI) program and FEMA funds that impact the shoreline.
8. Continue communications with the local municipalities, to include LDC attendance at joint Village of Clayton and Town of Clayton board meetings.