

# Clayton Local Development Corporation

Annual Report 2022

## ***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 2022

## **Officers**

### **Chairman**

Jamie Ganter, Retired Director of Media Operations Knowlton Technologies LCC

### **Vice-Chairman**

Bobby Cantwell, Jefferson County Legislature, District #1

### **Treasurer**

John Cooper, Territory Sales Manager, Reeb

### **Secretary**

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

### **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

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.

Jack Stopper, owner Weather Stopper

Mike Hazlewood, owner Hazlewood Mechanicals & Wood Boat Brewery

## **Executive Director**

Kristi Dippel

# 2022 Project Updates

## **Historic District Infrastructure Improvement Project**

The Clayton Local Development Corporation (CLDC) continued to support the Village by administering the final grant closeout for the project in 2022. The project significantly improved the Village's main corridor and allowed businesses to invest in their properties without the burden of high-powered energy lines. The project has improved the historic atmosphere and will have a positive impact on tourism.



## **Downtown Revitalization Initiative Application**

The Clayton LDC has worked on developing applications to the Downtown Revitalization Initiative since 2019, with applications being submitted in 2021 and 2022. Developing these applications included outreach, meetings and conversations with local businesses. The community's applications were not selected by NYS for the DRI program.



## **Resiliency and Economic Development Initiative (REDI)**

The CLDC has partnered with the Town of Clayton to provide support for the Town REDI Grindstone project in 2022. The CLDC specifically provided support for the grant administration and payment requests through DASNY.

## **Strategic Planning**

The current Strategic Plan was developed in 2018 and revised again in 2021 to extend its timeframe. It was further reviewed in 2022 to validate that the goals' objectives and strategies still met our overall mission. Each area was reviewed to justify that measurables and strategies could be executed by the organization in order to guide the CLDC. The organization's plan 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.

### **ARPA Small Business Relief**

The Clayton LDC partnered with the Town of Clayton provide funding to local small businesses who sustained prolonged negative impacts from the Covid pandemic. The funds were provided by the Town of Clayton through the Federal ARPA program. The Clayton LDC accepted applications from eligible local businesses and awarded grants to 11 of those businesses to alleviate the sustained negative impacts of the Covid pandemic.

### **Housing Needs Assessment**

In late 2022 the Clayton LDC began evaluating the impact the local housing market is having on the local economy. The Clayton LDC determined that the community would benefit from a Housing Needs Assessment to identify and quantify the deficiencies in the community. The CLDC plans to move forward with this study in 2023.

### **Traffic Study**

The Clayton LDC partnered with the Village to explore the possibility of having a traffic study completed for the Village of Clayton. The study would explore ideas to improve traffic flow and parking in the Village in summer months. Both entities meet with consultants that specialize in traffic studies. The CLDC and Village plan to move forward with the study in 2023.



## CLDC Goals for 2023

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 future NYS Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) programs if available.
2. 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.
3. Explore additional revenue generating activities to ensure the future sustainability of the CLDC.
4. Continue to update the Strategic Plan to accurately reflect the needs of the community and organization and generate measurable action items
5. Support the Village and Town of Clayton in the implementation of the Resiliency Economic Development Initiative (REDI) program and FEMA funds that impact the shoreline.
6. Work with the Town and Village of Clayton, as well as the Joint Planning board towards revising and updating the 2013 Joint Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan.
7. Explore the need for and the feasibility of a community Housing Needs Assessment.
8. Work with potential developers for possible development projects in the community.