

Clayton Local Development Corporation

Annual Report 2023

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.

Note from the Chairman

Throughout 2023 the Clayton LDC continued to support the stakeholders in our community. We did a good job of completing our goals for 2023. We had completed action on all eight goals. In our opinion we were able to show results on seven of eight goals.

The organization's hard work to revise and update the Strategic Plan has been valuable and has helped to align measurable actions, creating a path for the future.

The Housing Study in 2023 and the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan updated planned to start in 2024, are valuable processes that will assist the community in developing a plan for the future. We look forward to 2024 and the challenges ahead.

It is important for the CLDC to recognize past members who brought strong character and knowledge to the organization. I would like to recognize a longtime former board member who supported the CLDC for many years. I want to thank you, Dennis Weller, and tell you we appreciated your sacrifices in support of the CLDC and our community.

I also would like to welcome our new board members, Tim Lalonde in 2023 and Nancy Hyde, Tim Doney and Norma Zimmer in 2024.

*James S. Ganter
Chairman*

CLDC Board Members 2023

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 Hazelwood, owner Hazelwood Mechanicals & Wood Boat Brewery

Executive Director

Kristi Dippel

2023 Project Updates

Housing Needs Assessment

In 2023 the Clayton LDC commissioned a Population and Housing Study to be completed for the Town and Village of Clayton. Funding was received from the Northern NY Community Foundation, Town of Clayton and Village of Clayton. The purpose of the study was to try to identify and quantify the housing issues in the community. The study is expected to be complete in the Spring of 2024.

Technical Assistance

The Clayton LDC worked with the owners of the Ringer Gallery Building to apply for technical assistance for the building. Funding was received through the NY Main Street Technical Assistance program. The funding will be used to have professionals evaluate the building and determine feasible uses and improvements for the future.

Downtown Revitalization Initiative Application

The Clayton LDC worked on developing applications to the Downtown Revitalization Initiative since 2019, with applications being submitted in 2021 and 2022. However, in 2023, based on feedback that was received, an application was not submitted to the DRI/NY Forward program. The opportunity will be reevaluated in the upcoming funding cycle.

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. This project was completed in 2023.

Strategic Planning

The current Strategic Plan was developed in 2018 and revised again in 2021 to extend its timeframe. It was further reviewed and updated in 2022 and 2023 to validate that the goals' objectives and strategies. 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 overall 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.

CLDC Goals for 2024

1. Work with the Village of Clayton, the Town of Clayton, local businesses and organizations to submit viable applications to appropriate NYS, federal and regional funding opportunities and programs that will benefit the community.
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 work toward generating measurable action items in the updated Strategic Plan, including holding stakeholder meetings.
5. 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.
6. Review completed housing study and determine next steps which may include potential actions, need for additional information and support.
7. Work with potential developers for possible development projects in the community