



**Laura Palisano Hackathorn
Trustee, Village of Hamburg**

Laura Palisano Hackathorn has served on the Board of Trustees for the Village of Hamburg since her election in 2004. She serves as board liaison to Economic Development, the Village Business Advisory Council, the Historic Preservation Commission and the Village Court system. For three years prior to her election, Laura was a volunteer on the award winning NYS Route 62 project, the village's Main Street, as well as, a member of the Historic Preservation Commission.

Laura is a highly dedicated community leader who works to significantly improve both the general quality of life and economic outlook in Hamburg through the introduction and disciplined adherence to progressive planning policies. She has been instrumental in developing and implementing community outreach and building support for a new vision of the community's future.

Her professional experience includes Marketing Coordinator for the Mentholatum Company, Inc., International Division, and Sales and Marketing in the company's U.S. Division.

She received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Degree from SUNY at Buffalo School of Management.

Accomplishments

As Trustee, Laura has focused her efforts on the redevelopment of Main Street as a way to revitalize her community. She believes that a traditional and historic business district is the heart of the community and ideally should provide for goods and services, entertainment, and social needs.

Laura has worked successfully to secure public and private investment, a safe and pedestrian focused road design, and an attractive and welcoming streetscape. She is a resource to local businesses, investing time to build relationships and trust. She believes that good government works to provide fertile ground where current businesses are successful and new businesses will locate and thrive. She has been instrumental in community outreach and building support for a new vision of the community's future. She researches what works and strives to always be prepared. Laura is a consensus builder. She pays attention to detail and follows through.

Laura's many achievements include:

- Worked with planners, designers, and engineers to ensure a NYS DOT reconstruction project affecting two of the village's primary arterial streets produced a pedestrian-friendly, village compatible streetscape. Laura's efforts included working with nationally recognized traffic calming expert Dan Burden to identify community design alternatives. The final project, incorporating four roundabouts, is a model of context sensitive design in a traditional village setting.
- Established a strong and open communication link with the local business community that helped minimize the potential negative impact of the NY Route 62 road reconstruction project, providing answers to questions and addressing concerns.
- Driving force behind the creation, adoption and implementation of the Village of Hamburg Building Design Guidelines. These illustrated standards, which guide all business district restoration and renovation projects, further improve the esthetic quality of the business district by guiding new construction and renovations to follow the village's traditional design patterns.
- Participated in the development and adoption of a Comprehensive Plan and its subsequent strategic targeted update which emphasized Smart Growth principles to preserve, enhance, and restore the village's livability and economic viability.
- Hands-on member of the NYS Main Street Grant committee that was awarded and administered \$800,000 in funding which resulted in \$7 million in private investment to renovate and restore commercial properties. The business district has seen a renaissance and dramatic visual change brought about by nearly forty building renovations. All grant and non-grant building projects are shaped by the village's design standards.
- Worked with the village and the Historic Preservation Commission to obtain Certified Local Government status with New York's State Historic Preservation Office.

Personal Awards

- Professional Award for Distinguished Leadership by an Elected Official from the American Planning Association, Western New York Section (2010)
- Professional Award for Distinguished Leadership by an Elected Official from the American Planning Association, New York Upstate Chapter (2010)

- Director's Choice Professional Award from the American Planning Association, Western New York Section, for Design Guidelines (2010)
- Friends of Business Award from the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce (2008)
- Certificate of Appreciation from the Village of Hamburg for her commitment and community service by partnering with the village and the NYS Department of Transportation to receive the Livable Community Award from Partners for a Livable Western New York (2005)

In addition, Laura was a working member of the following teams and/or projects that received recognition:

Village of Hamburg Awards

- Village of Hamburg - Livable Community Award from Partner's for a Livable Western New York (2005)
- NYCOM/Empire State Report – Local Government Achievement Award in the Economic Development category (2010)
- American Planning Association, WNY Section, Award for Building Design Standards (2010)

NYS DOT Awards – Route 62 Project

- America's Transportation Awards, Northeast Regional competition, for Innovative Management, Small Project category (2010) – Route 62 project
- America's Transportation Awards Competition, National Award - the Route 62 project is a Top 10 Finalist in the People's Choice Category (2010)

