



Dear Community Members,

We have seen several inaccurate and accusatory posts against the MARK Project. In an effort to shed light on the work that we do, I would like to address the following subjects, which should alleviate concerns.

**Town of Roxbury Contract**

The Town of Roxbury contracts with the MARK Project for grant writing services. This contract was first put into place in 2009 and has been renewed every year by the Town Board. This includes researching and identifying funding sources at the local, state, and federal levels that address and support development needs set forth by the Town. The contract also includes drafting and submitting applications to these identified sources for new projects approved by the Town. This funding covers staff time and resources. This is a service provided to the Town and there has never been, nor will there ever be any personal benefit from this contract. It is a fee for service contract.

**Town of Roxbury "Contributions": Owner Occupied Home Repair Program**

The Town of Roxbury does not donate to the MARK Project. The \$154,557 as seen on the MARK 990 is for an income eligible owner occupied (full time residence) Home Repair Program. As per program mandates, The award was made to the Town of Roxbury and all payment requests are processed by the State funding agency and paid to the Town. Because the Town does not have the human resources to administer a program of this magnitude, The MARK Project administers and provides program delivery. This includes, but is not limited to outreach to potential participants, individual homeowner application intake, verification of income eligibility, site inspections, work scope development, and contractor solicitation and construction oversight. When the Town receives payments for each individual project, it goes to the MARK Project to pay out to the contractors, lab testing, and costs associated with the rehabilitation of these homes. The \$154,557 was the fiscal year culminating total for several homes. Payments were made in accordance with the State contract for this valuable and beneficial program.

### **The Roxbury Motel**

The MARK Project did work with the Roxbury Motel as part of a NY Main Street Program in 2013. A total of 9 Main Street Buildings received improvements through this program. \$34,060 went toward the Roxbury Motel expansion project, which was a one for one matching grant. The Roxbury Motel is **NOT** tax exempt. They have a PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) program through Delaware County IDA for a portion of their property. In 2021, their land taxes paid (in addition to the PILOT program) was **\$17,464.25**. Further information can be attained from the Tax Collector and information on the PILOT can be obtained from DC IDA. It should be noted that Greg and Joe employ 50 LOCAL people year-round and contribute to various community programs.

### **Transition Catskills**

Jeff Tomasi, a MARK board member at the time, made a restricted donation, which was designated for ongoing economic sustainability programs in our area. There will be an electric vehicle charging station installed in Kirkside Park as a result of their efforts. For more information about Transition Catskills visit [www.transitioncatskills.org](http://www.transitioncatskills.org)

### **Small Business Development Fund and Business Revolving Loan Fund**

Ate O Ate Catering received a LOAN through the **business revolving loan fund**, which has been operating at MARK since the 1980s. The application was reviewed and approved by an external panel. It should be noted that this is not the only loan made through this fund. However, as per Not-for-Profit Law it is recorded on the 990 for transparency purposes due to the relationship between Ate O Ate and a MARK Project Employee. Ate O Ate employs 18 local residents.

### **Kirkside Park Community Barns (The Pavilion and the Community Kitchen)**

There is confusion about the municipally owned Kirkside Park Barns and the MARK owned Kirkside mansion (Future Inn at Kirkside.) They are two separate properties. The Kirkside Kitchen Facility is part of the Community Barns, which is owned and operated by the Town of Roxbury. Both the north and south barns were developed through funds from the NY State Dept of State, NY Main St Program, O'Connor Foundation, Transition Catskills (Transitions is a MARK Initiative) and Delaware County Economic Development. MARK solicited and administered the funds from these agencies for the benefit of the Town. These buildings generate income for the Town and the pavilion is utilized for many community gatherings and events.

### **Kirkside of Roxbury, Inc. (The former retirement home)**

Kirkside of Roxbury Inc. did **NOT** pay MARK to take the building. The \$427,077 cited on the 2019 Kirkside of Roxbury Inc 990 was the **cost** basis of the property at the time of transfer. This was not the market value, as per not for profit law, any improvements made to the building are capitalized on their depreciation schedule to determine cost basis. It should also be noted that the MARK Project put a great deal of effort into helping Kirkside of Roxbury Inc keep its doors open as an retirement facility prior to taking ownership of the building. We worked with Senator Seward to put \$150,000 in place to keep the retirement home afloat while we attempted to find other funding avenues. Unfortunately, there was no funding available for a retirement facility such as Kirkside of Roxbury Inc.

### **Inn at Kirkside**

We are estimating this project will result in the creation of approximately 50 jobs. This will be a place for opportunities for BOCES culinary students to learn more and be paid to learn rather than incurring a college tuition. It will also welcome postgraduates from SUNY Delhi and other culinary and hospitality programs. For more information on this exciting project please reach out to Peg at [peg@markproject.org](mailto:peg@markproject.org) or visit [www.markproject.org/kirkside](http://www.markproject.org/kirkside)

### **Roxbury Main Street Program**

MARK solicited and was awarded a \$490,000 NY Main Street Program for improvements to approximately 8-10 mixed use commercial properties on Main Street Roxbury. As reported at the last Town Board meeting, we do not have an executed contract in place with the funding agency. As soon as we receive an executed contract, we will be putting together a project steering committee and will have ample public information sessions as building owners apply and are awarded.

Project steering committees are comprised of 5-7 people. Your participation is welcomed and encouraged. Anyone who is interested, send an email to [admin@markproject.org](mailto:admin@markproject.org). Please note, we give regular updates on what we are working on at Town Board meetings. Participation in these meetings is a great way to stay informed on MARK Project and other Town efforts.

In closing, if you wish to learn more about MARK Project and specifics on programs we have brought to the Town of Roxbury, please continue reading below or call the office at (845) 586-3500

Sincerely,

Katie Camillone, Executive Director

2005	Grand Gorge Playground	\$ 5,000.00
2005 Grand Gorge Civic Center	Gym floor	\$ 5,000.00
2006 Grand Gorge Community Action Group	Community Halloween Party	\$ 1,000.00
2000-2010 School and Community Programs	CROP, Plattekill ski patrol, 3rd grade play, proms, enrichment program, RCS roof, sculpture program, CROP garden, 6th grade trip, music national adjudication, exercise equipment, drama club, community concerts, winter fesitval, environmental education program, SHOP class, RCS artist in residency, RCS computers (preGRLC), stream study program, tennis courts	\$ 70,354.00
2010 Kirkside Park Pavilion	Funds from Department of State, Municipally owned Kirkside Park Barn. MARK wrote and adminisitered grant to renovate the space into a pavilion enjoyed by the community and host to many community events. Generates income for the Town	\$ 223,500.00
2011-2014 Kirkside Park Stream Bank	DOS funding for restoration of several hundred feet of stream bank wall in the municipal Kirkside Park.	\$ 50,000.00
2011-2013 HOME and AHC Home Repair	MARK administered a HOME and AHC program which was open to our entire service area. 3 town of roxbury owner occupied homes received code corrective health and safety repairs through these programs	\$ 77,505.00
2012-2014 CDBG Home Repair	Code corrective health and safety repairs to 18 LOCAL OWNER OCCUPIED HOMES	\$ 400,000.00
2012-2014 Roxbury Main Street	Improvements to 8 mixed use commercial properties along Main Street Roxbury: Masserson, Railroad Depot, Lenihan Corner Store, Lerner Gallery, Enderlin, Boyle, Kirkside Park Barns, Convenience Store. Streetscape included entry signs to park, lighting at park, building informational kiosk, picnic tables and benches at the park, landscape plantings on municipal property.	\$ 360,788.00
2013-2014 HOME for Rental Rehab	HOME for Rental Rehab: This was for MARK service area and two rental owners received funds for improvements to 6 full time locally rented units located in the Town of Roxbury	\$ 123,130.00
2012 RARP Kirkside of Roxbury	MARK adminisitered a RARP program for Kirkside of Roxbury Inc retirement home for repairs to entry walkway, front porch, small porch to left side, ADA entrance ramp, walkway railings, new bilco door	\$ 200,000.00
2012 Kirkside of Roxbury	Senator Seward awarded grant funds	\$ 150,000.00

2017-2021 Community Kitchen	Funds from Department of State, Transition Catskills, Oconnor Foundation toward agricultural community kitchen. This certified kitchen space enables local growers and producers to prepare and package goods and artisanal food products for resale. This is a municipally owned property and the Town rents this space for a nominal fee thus generating income for the Town	\$ 270,000.00
2018 CDBG Home Repair	Code corrective health and safety repairs to 16 LOCAL OWNER OCCUPIED HOMES	\$ 433,650.00
2020 COVID Business Relief	Transition Catskills approved financial aid to 5 Town of Roxbury small businesses during the onset of the COVID19 pandemic to keep them afloat while federal and state aid programs were being developed (roxbury general, farmhouse caterers, beauty creations, neblung hair, chappies)	\$ 9,000.00
2021 Homeownership	A resident of Roxbury benefited from a Home ownership program administered by MARK through AHC. This program was for our entire service area including the Town of Roxbury	\$ 27,350.00
2021 Roxbury Walking Tour	Roxbury Walking Tour Maps funded through Delaware County Tourism and Oconnor Foundation	\$ 10,000.00
2022 Roxbury Main Street	Once an executed contract is in place with State funding agency MARK will work with the Town and a project steering committee for repairs to an estimated 10 mixed use commercial properties located on Main Street Roxbury	\$ 490,000.00
Roxbury Beautification Fund	Oconnor funded a \$5,000 with a required 50% match. So MARK collaborated with roxbury residents on a go fund me page and hosted a sip and sing fundraising event for matching funds	\$ 10,000.00
2019 GRBA	Delaware County Tourism funded celebrate roxbury events and marketing and promotion	\$ 5,000.00
Interpetive signage	Oconnor funded a \$5,000 with a required 50% match. So MARK collaborated with the Roxbury Historic Pres commission to raise the 50% match	\$ 5,000.00
Roxbury Events	Oconnor funded a \$5,000 with a required 50% match. So MARK collaborated with roxbury residents to raise the 50% match	\$ 10,000.00
2020-2021 Inn at Kirkside Feasibility Study	This did not cost taxpayers ANY MONEY. This was funded through grants from NYS, Transition Catskills, Oconnor Foundation, and the Crosby Foundation. This project will breath new life into a prominent historic building and create local jobs through creation of a 2year post graduate experiential learning facility for culinary and hospitality entrepreneurs	\$ 201,000.00

2022 Gould Church Restoration	grant through office of parks recreation and historic preservation to make critical repairs and bring church into ADA compliance	\$ 500,000.00
2022 Town website and server	OCOnnor Foundation and Town will match funds	\$ 5,000.00
2022 Grand Gorge Community Action Group	Oconnor application that funded holiday décor	\$ 5,000.00
2012-2021	Small Business Development \$27,000 to 5 local businesses and \$569,400 in low interest loans to 12 local businesses. This is a combination of private restricted donations as well as a grant through Empire State Development	\$ 596,400.00
	TOTAL:	\$ 4,243,677.00