

Wappingers Falls EDC Committee
5/30/2013

Member Attendance: Kathy Rutledge, Rob Alfonso, Scott Davis, Sandra Vacchio, Cindy Latino, Ronnie Komornick, Alex Reese, Kristin Catalano
Absent: Peg O’Leary, Don Swartz, Don McCormick, Mike Kocan, Denise Calabrese, Matt Alexander
Public Attendance: Mary Schmalz, Diane Levitt, Beth Devine

Meeting called to order at 7:15 PM:

Minutes of 4/28/13

Approved with following corrections:
Beth “Devine”

Mary Schmalz asked that recommendation that Greenway information be included in the Powerpoint presentation be added to the minutes

Agenda:

Item: Façade Program Update

Scott reported that the County was on board with the façade program. It is probably best if the WFBPA works directly with the county vs. the Village as a go-between. Discussion followed on recommendations and questions about having a façade program;

Alex Reese raised the question of whether we should put restrictions on the program or should we keep it open to all businesses. Talk continued about focusing on the Main Street corridor through the Village. The program could be expanded as needed. Cindy reviewed previous concerns from Peg O’Leary and Don Swartz about the need to protect the investment by the WFBPA in the previous program. We are willing to share our success with the County provided that the Village does get priority funding. Cindy also mentioned about information recently published by Gov. Cuomo’s office regarding funding opportunities being made available through local business groups and educational institutions. Cindy had forwarded this press release to all committee members.

Item: Bleachery Update

Prior to a letter being drafted and sent, the Village received notification that the cleanup money was being released and that a solicitation for bids was being released. Bids will be opened and reviewed on 6/4

A building moratorium is being put into place for the area at least until the Fall when the new zoning plan is adopted. This is similar to the moratorium in place regarding apartments on the first level along Main Street.

Discussion continued (led by Scott) regarding the impact that lobbying through phone calls had on moving the DEC along on moving ahead with the cleanup.

Ronnie talked about the focus of improving the infrastructure on Market Street to lay the ground work for future development.

Kristin reported on tax incentives that could be used to attract new developers to the project. She made reference to plans 485A and 485B.

Cindy expressed concern that the current owners and businesses in the Industrial Park be kept informed of these changes.

Beth Devine announced that on June 7th the Wappingers Historical Society was opening an exhibit at the Mesier Homestead on “The Bleachery”. The WHS will also be honoring Robert and Jack Fedigan for their efforts to restore the Bleachery and give it new life.

Item: Website

Nicole Bragg will be working on the link for the EDC from the Village website. Kristin will touch base with everyone to develop a mission statement for the group to be posted on the website. Sandra mentioned having pictures available from the WHS that could be posted on the site.

Item: New Business

Sandra brought up a concern about the hanging plants along Main Street. She asked whether or not they would be hanging this year. Ronnie explained that there was a miscommunication and that the Village Board had not approved spending the funds on the plants this year. Scott will look into seeing if funds can be found to hang the flowers rather than sell them off.

Mary Schmalz inquired if County Players might be pursuing the vacant lot next to the Theatre for parking. Rob Alfonso explained that the DOT would never approve access to the lot off that section of Main Street (Rt. 9D). It's too close to the sharp turn..

Short discussion was held about marketing the Village downtown under the slogan “By the Falls”. Many events can be tagged with this slogan.

Progress is being made on lighting the Falls. Harry Terbush and Jack Fedigan met with Ronnie and a plan is being developed. Jack is in contact with a lighting architect for consultation. If the project is completed by the end of August, it was suggested a block party be held on Mill Street for the first lighting. WFBPA is sponsoring a concert on August 30th that can be relocated down to Mill Street for the event.

Kristin talked about offering residents the opportunity to cultivate gardens on Village property (Temple Field). Mayor Matt also is investigating this possibility.

Discussion was raised about the Beacon Business Association having an “App” that directs customers to businesses. Is this something we could offer in the Village?

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM

Next Meeting: June 27th @ 7:15 PM - Legion Hall

Respectfully submitted:

Cindy Latino