

Wappingers Falls EDC Committee  
8/29/2013

**Member Attendance:** Rob Alfonso, Scott Davis, Sandra Vacchio, Cindy Latino, Ronnie Komornick, Kristin Catalano, Don McCormick

**Absent:** Peg O’Leary, Don Swartz, Mike Kocan, Denise Calabrese, Kathy Rutledge, Alex Reese, Kevin Huber, Matt Alexander

**Public Attendance:** Mary Schmalz, Beth Devine, Eileen Sassmann

**Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM:**

**Minutes of 6/27/13**

Tabled

**Agenda:**

**Item: WFBPA Update**

Cindy gave a report as Kathy Rutledge was not in attendance. There is a luncheon on 9/11/13. Terry Gipson is the guest speaker. It will be held at the new Village Hall on South Avenue. The Association is exploring utilizing NYCON to assist in helping to manage a fund to be set up for potential grant/fundraising money for economic development. The association is currently not a non-profit and feels it is not in a position to manage being one. Affiliating itself with NYCON would allow NYCON to manage the fund and the association in a position of helping to direct it.

Scott asked if Cindy could give a history on the origins of the organization. Cindy explained that the Association was started to act as an advocate for businesses with the Village. When an opportunity presented itself for the Association to apply for funding to develop a Central Business District parking lot, the Association contracted with Community Services Programs to act as administrators. Over the next decade, land on Mill Street (former Sweet Orr building – fire casualty) was purchased and a parking lot developed and a façade grant for the Central Business District implemented. Former member Mary Ross spearheaded a fund drive for the purchase of the Christmas wreathes and Hank DiMarco initiated “Cleansweep” and the Adopt-A-Highway (Route 9D through the Village). Eventually, the Association parted ways with Community Services and has administrated its own affairs with an Executive Board. The original banner program was initiated by Jack Fedigan in 2002 as a memorial to 911. An updated banner program utilizing pictures of Village landmarks was re-launched in 2010. Currently the Association is focused on working with the Village and Economic Development Committee on revitalizing business in the Village.

**Item: Grinnell Library**

Eileen Sassmann reported on the Grinnell Library gala to take place on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Simply Gourmet will be catering the function. Prints of *Memorial Day 1864* will be for sale. Grinnell is also having a booth on Saturday (8/31) at the Village Family Fun Day. Fundraising efforts are for some exterior renovations to the building. Eileen expressed her dismay at the *Poughkeepsie Journal Focus* page being only available by

mail to select areas. The current *Focus* features a wonderful article on the upcoming Family Fun day. If you are a subscriber to the Journal you do not receive *Focus*. A motion was made by Rob Alfonso and seconded by Ronnie Komornick to have Scott Davis write a letter to the Poughkeepsie Journal expressing concern that *Focus* be available to all.

### **Item: Block Party**

Cindy made an executive decision to cancel plans for a Block Party on Mill Street for the Friday, 8/30 concert sponsored by the WFBPA. The concert will remain in Mesier Park. There were too many logistical issues. A future Block Party will be planned.

### **Item: Website**

The phrase “*Respect the Past, Embrace Your Future*” will be the tagline for the WFEDC page on the Village website. Eileen Sassmann was asked to write a background on the Village as an introduction. Links are being created to various other groups as resources for business owners and developers. Don McCormick suggested a map of the Village be included and to work with Recreation Dept information about Village events. Sandy and Beth raised concerns about the appearance of Main Street. Discussion followed on how to get current business landlords and business owners to take pride in the appearance of their buildings. Some ideas included letters to owners, visits to owners, open letter in the Southern Dutchess News, etc. Cindy offered to write a letter to owners appealing for their help. We’ll send it to owners and follow up with visits. Sandy made a motion, seconded by Rob, that the letter also be published in the newspaper.

### **Item: New Business**

#### **1. Future Activity Ideas –**

**Food Truck Rally (Scott)**

**Bed Races (Ronnie)**

**Car Show on Mill St. (Ronnie)** –Ronnie suggested having a joint meeting with Recreation on planning events.

#### **2. 8/16 Walk Through with Legislators**

Matt invited several people to accompany him on a walk along Central Business District and Market St. with Sen. Gipson, Assemblyman Lalor, and Congressman Moloney. Developer Steve Griggs met up with group at Goring Hall. Show renditions of future buildings. Visit to Market St. Industrial park impressed Con. Moloney – especially incubator business space.

#### **3. Ongoing Project News**

**Ciccio’s sold to CIA Chef**

**Community Block Grant for 60 Parking spaces submitted**

**2.5 Million Grant submitted for Gallucci Park/ Retrofit of old Highway Garage**

**\$800 million grant for Transportation Enhancement**

**\$100,000 pledge by Sen. Gipson for upper East Main sidewalks**

**Ecosystem Park behind SD News under construction  
Solar panels being installed at water Treatment Plant  
Mesier Ave. resurfacing starting soon.**

**Conversation about DC Trolley. Mary Schmalz mentioned that in the past each municipality was allotted 2 hrs. Additional time was at cost.**

**4. Tax Breaks and Incentives**

**Kristin reported on her research on the variety of 485 plans – there are 21 in all. She reported that several seemed reasonable to implement in the Village. Scott mentioned that the Village was also looking at a Federal Program to designate historical districts. This would give incentives to both residential and commercial improvements to properties.**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM**

**Next Meeting: September 26, 2013 @ 7:15 PM - Legion Hall**

Respectfully submitted:

*Cindy Latino*