

Wappingers Falls EDC Committee
4/25/2013

Member Attendance: Rob Alfonso, Don McCormick, Scott Davis, Don Swartz, Sandra Vacchio, Cindy Latino, Denise Calabrese, Matt Alexander,

Absent: Peg O'Leary, Alex Reese, Kathy Rutledge, Kristin Catalano

Public Attendance: Mary Schmalz, Anthony Tung (Marist Intern), Diane Levitt, Beth Levine

Meeting called to order at 7:15 PM:

Minutes of 3/28/13

Approved

Powerpoint Presentation:

Agenda was postponed as Mayor Matt asked those present to view a Powerpoint presentation developed by Marist Intern Anthony Tung. The presentation is being shown at upcoming meetings with the County and State where the Village will make a pitch to be considered as the site for funding focused on redevelopment of a small struggling community in NY State. The Village meets many of the criteria associated with the RFP and the hope is that the Village be selected. Criteria focus are on population size and current ethnicity, age, etc., economic conditions, physical conditions, etc.

The presentation was very well received. Suggestions for improvement were to add music, include assets of the Village (Pictures of the Falls, etc.), include renderings of streetscapes, etc.

Agenda:

Item: Website

Scott reported that Craig Roberts, the Village website administrator, is working on adding a page to the website to focus on EDC. Committee members and contact info will be posted. Additional links to other organizations as well.

Item: Study Presentations

Scott reminded committee members to finish review of their assigned Village plans so that we can have presentations at the next meeting.

Item: Façade Program Update

Scott reported that the Village will be having a meeting with the County next week (April) to discuss the façade program. He will bring to their attention the original program used by the WFBPA and the Associations willingness to partner in a new program.

Item: New Library District

Diane Levitt and Beth Devine talked about the new library district. Mary Schmalz suggested that the Library look into having a scout Eagle project look

towards added handicap accessibility to the downstairs meeting room at the Library

New Items:

Diane Levitt suggested looking at the Cornell Cooperative Extension as a resource for developing a plan for look of the downtown area. They were very helpful to New Hamburg.

Sandy commented on the eyesore that the vacant lot of the former Goring hall creates in the downtown area. She suggested contacting Tilcon to see if they would donate fill and switching the blue tarp to brown on Purdy's building. She also suggested getting a local artist to create a scene to post on the safety fence. Cindy will write a letter to Tilcon asking for the donation. Rob Alfonso supplied info on material needed.

Cindy suggested forming a sub-committee to explore additional events to be held in the Village instead of adding that task to the Recreation Committee. Cindy Scott and Denise Calabrese will serve on this.

Discussion was held about progress on Ronnie Komornick's efforts to put lights on the Falls. She is working with Harry Terbush, Jack and Jim Fedigan. Good progress is being made and this looks to be done in the foreseeable future.

Discussion was held on using the concept of "By the Falls" as a potential marketing tool for events, developers, etc. Committee members were asked to come up with additional thoughts on this idea

Meeting adjourned

Next Meeting: May 30th @ 7:15 PM - Legion Hall

Respectfully submitted:

Cindy Latino