

Ridgely E.D.C. Meeting  
January 10, 2007

In Attendance: John Balderson, Joe Mangini, Portia Dunst, Brenda Walls, Woody Woodworth, Bryan Saathoff, Nancy Gearhart, Sara Wright

6:35 pm: Meeting called to order by John Balderson

Joe discussed his conversation with Les Hall regarding the grant program. Les Hall is interested in having the Hayman House and the Cowbarn for E.D.C. projects because there are no other projects as such on the Eastern Shore.

No further info on Schuster project.

At Monday's town meeting (1/08/07), the Commissioners approved a revolving loan fund using the money from Global Signal. \$25,000 would be put into a town general fund. Joe discussed how DBED would triple the fund to \$75,000 and said that we would need to come up with a program to loan that money out.

Discussion turned to the Fire Department's desire for a new fire station. Joe said he has approached them about possibly constructing a joint use municipal building, to be shared by both the Town Police and the Fire Department. The Fire Department has requested that the commissioners do a feasibility study to determine the type of building needed, as well as a cost analysis. This study will probably take at least a year to complete. John said the Fire Department estimates the cost of a new facility between \$1.5- \$3 million, and adds that the members of the Fire Dept wish to keep the facility at "ground level". Brenda questioned John on possible uses of the old Fire Department Facility and Woody discussed what Ellory Adams did in his town; converting the facility into apartments for senior citizens.

The Town of Ridgely will have its 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary on May 13, 2007, and Joe has already started the application process for grant money to hold a town celebration for this. Any festivities to be held in honor of the anniversary would not be until late summer or fall.

The Rails to Trails committee and \$100,000 urban renewal line of credit were approved at Mondays (1/08/07) Town Meeting. Rails to Trails would help restore the park area between Railroad Ave and Belle St by possibly adding new benches and a working fountain.

Joe discussed his meeting with Mr. Brody (1/10/07), in which Mr. Brody informed Joe of his decision to purchase the property on Rt 480 across from Dave's restaurant, and open a Subway restaurant. The opening of the new business would bring in jobs for local residents, property tax revenue, and would add "life" to the town.

Joe also discussed a meeting he had with Vicky and John, the owners of Vicky's Restaurant, about the hear-say of them shutting the restaurant down. Both owners told Joe that they intend to stay open and in business. Joe offered them help if they feel they need any and also suggested that they serve breakfast there.

Bryan Sathoff came to the meeting to review his business proposal for the Cowbarn. He would like to convert the cowbarn into an affordable steakhouse, where people could come for food and entertainment. The Cowbarn and two (2) acres is supposed to come into the Town of Ridgely's possession, and then would be probably be leased to Bryan Sathoff for a minimum of five (5) years. Joe told Bryan he would work on finding funding for the project and would get in touch with the state for him.

Nancy proposed the E.D.C. Committee, Bryan Sathoff and herself, take a tour of the Cowbarn property. Sara is to work out a date and time for the tour, and let all involved know.

The Town of Ridgely will also get the Hayman House from the County, as long as the Town will do something with it. Thad Hoy has made a proposal for the property.

Next E.D.C. Meeting will be held February 15, 2007 at 6:30 pm, rather than the previously scheduled date, due to Valentines Day.

An After Hours Business Social will be held on March 14, 2007. Ricky Harris has offered to "take care" of it.

Brenda shared her ideas for a photography contest, with the winners having their photo made into postcards for the Town of Ridgely. She also proposed having an "Art in the Park".

Nancy requested a list of all the vacant commercial properties in the Town of Ridgely to take with her to the Caroline County E.D.C. Meeting on Wednesday, January 17, 2007. Sara and Joe are to gather the information for the list.

8:12 pm: Meeting Dismissed by John Balderson