

Ridgely E.D.C. Meeting
April 11, 2007

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

6:37 pm: Meeting called to order by John Balderson

Joe informed the group that the Town of Ridgely was in budget planning all week and that there was going to be a tax rate decrease (from \$0.53 to \$0.50) in 2007. He also said that the town is starting a small account for the E.D.C.; currently the money is coming out of general funds. Joe said that the Town of Ridgely gives money to Caroline County E.D.C. and Tourism, as well as to Ridgely Fire Department but, the amount of money being given to the fire department may increase in the coming year. There is a Mid Shore Business Resource Network meeting April 20, 2007 for county and local E.D.C. members, as well as people from the state.

John B. discussed the trip they (Joe, Merl, Robin, Nancy & himself) took to the governor's office, where they met with Governor O'Malley's assistants. The group met in the first lady's meeting room in the basement and spoke about Ridgely's E.D.C.

Joe said that the trip to the Governor's office was more of a public relations trip and mentioned meeting Josh White, the director of intergovernmental affairs. Joe felt that during the permit process for Ridgely's new water storage tank and treatment plant, it would be helpful to know the Governor. He also said that they (Josh White and Gov. O'Malley) would like to see Ridgely prioritize the projects, putting the new tank and treatment plant first on the list. One smaller project, the painting of the Ridgely House, will begin next week (April 16-20). Joe said he is still trying for a public works building for Ridgely and had been curious as to whether Bob Musselman's building could work for the fire department to use. Joe had emailed Bryan Ebling about that possibility, and Joe said if it would work, Bell Street would have to be upgraded. Joe also noted that Eric Goode already needs more room and has been looking for space.

Brenda questioned whether Mr. Musselman would sell the property to the fire department for their use. Joe said that trading Musselman's property for the current fire department may be a possibility.

Joe discussed some of the future projects for Ridgely including; work on west Third Street and Rails to Trails, which the Town hopes to get the people from Easton Rails to Trails involved with. Joe also said that he had already put in to receive the money for the new water storage tank. The storage tank will cost approximately \$1.5 million and would be started and finished in 2008. A new waste water treatment plant planned for Ridgely is expected to cost \$4,825,000. Ridgely Park will be giving Ridgely athletic park \$100,000. for new equipment, additional fields, and paving the parking lots.

Development projects planned for Ridgely were also discussed by Joe. Ridgely is expecting forty to forty five (40-45) new units this year and thirty six (36) next year. Projects include Ridgely Park; 13 units Weese; 7 units, Walnut Farms; 20 units and Ali's Cove/ Cowbarn; 36 units. Ridgely Park will be running the water and sewer lines for their project and Ali's Cove/ the Cowbarn will tie into those lines. Joe said that he intends to keep visiting the Governor's office, in hopes that there will be fewer hold ups during the completion of Ridgely's projects.

Joe went on to talk about Mr. Brody's new commercial center planned for 204 East Sixth Street. Ordinance 302 was passed to allow a drive in window at Mr. Brody's future establishment. According to Joe, Mr. Brody fired his engineer and has chosen a new one from DMS in Centreville, MD. Joe spoke with the new engineer, who told Joe that it would probably be six (6) months or so before we see anything of Mr. Brody's center. The center has been changed from five (5) units to four (4), and Subway and Colosseum will both be located within his center. Mr. Brody has purchased the old New Roads building and has an HVAC and Electrical Company there currently, but is still talking to the County.

Brenda asked if there was any news on Vicky's or Mr. Woo's properties. Joe told her there was an offer made on Vicky's, but that they want too much money for it. George is currently running the restaurant by himself and pages are missing out the menu. There was no news on Mr. Woo. Joe did say that he was expecting for the ice cream shop to be opening soon.

Brenda then asked when the Arions were planning on opening the Veterinary Office. Joe explained that they had been delayed about a month or so because they had to build a ramp.

Joe informed the commission that the process of setting up the EDC Revitalization Plan has to be started. He said that he will talk to Mindie Burgoyne about it and that there is a grant available for up to \$50,000. Joe also said that the Revolving Loan Fund (\$25,000) program needs to be set up as well. Joe would like to be ready by June to go to the State for grant money, because every \$1 equals \$2 with help from grant funds.

Brenda questioned whether EDC members would have their shirts before the Strawberry Festival. Portia said that Medifast may donate shirts for the members of the EDC.

Joe talked about other town projects, aside from the shirts, which he would like to do. He said that he'd like to have mugs made that have the town seal on them, as well as re-start the Town of Ridgely newspaper. Joe had already talked to the Times Record about doing the paper.

John B. discussed the parking at B & A Rails to Trails, stating that the parking lot is about a mile away from the start of the trail, which means that pedestrians have to walk along Rt. 20 to get to it. Woody asked where Ridgely's Rails to Trails would go. Joe told him it will be contained to just the railbed for now, but may eventually branch out

into the park. Joe brought up the possibility of a cookout at the park by the railroad tracks; something like pork in the park. Brenda agreed that she would like to see some sort of festival there as well and thought that it could be part of the 140th Anniversary Celebration. Another idea she had for the 140th Celebration was doing a dinner on Friday night and a celebration on Saturday. Brenda also said that Rick and Cathy Schwab have donated an area for the Town Seal and that there would be a brick walk way in the park area around the caboose. The Ridgely Historical Society is doing a brick sale where residents and others can purchase engraved bricks to be used in the walk ways. Brenda had done some research on the caboose in the park and found out that its original colors were dark green with a yellow stripe.

Portia said that she does not think its fair that John Guthrie is never at the EDC meetings, and that perhaps we should consider finding a new member. Joe said that as a general rule of thumb, if a person misses three (3) consecutive meetings without notification, then they're out.

7:54 pm: Meeting Ended