

Ridgely E.D.C. Meeting
July 18, 2007

In Attendance: John Balderson, Joe Mangini, Portia Dunst, Brenda Walls, Trish Puckett, Sara Wright

6:34 pm: Meeting called to order by John Balderson

Joe started by telling EDC members about an expected guest, Frank Hall, who wanted to discuss a business idea of his.

Joe updated members on the Local Revolving loan fund, saying that he had talked to Mindie Burgoyne and received a copy of a loan application. An application for the Strategic Revitalization Program has also been obtained and Joe stated that he would like to speak with E.D.C. officials about it.

According to Joe, Shane Johnston is coming on as a contractor on call for Ridgely. Joe also gave an update on Ridgely's elevated water storage tank project. The Town is \$1.5 million short of the total amount, and was turned down by the State for funding, but plans to apply through the Department of Housing and Community Development. Joe mentioned that Bryan Saathoff is still interested in doing a steakhouse style restaurant at the Cowbarn.

The quarterly E.D.C. meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2007 in Cambridge. Joe plans to attend, stating that the State Senator will be there and that incentives for expanding small business in rural Maryland will be discussed.

Joe shared news of a new business expected to come to Ridgely. Robert Thayer of Thayer Entertainment has been in touch with Mr. Bob Musselman, and plans to rent a bay from him. Mr. Thayer produces small films and commercials, and is currently based in Greensboro. He may be looking for some financial aide, in the amount of \$5,000 to \$10, 000., which Joe said could possibly be given through a guarantee loan from the Town. Joe also spoke of Cynthia Pyron who is working for the County E.D.C. on the Tech Park project. E.D.C. members reviewed an article from the Times-Record about Tech Park funding; the State approved \$1 million.

An update was given on the Ridgely Rails to Trails project. The lease agreement can now be made for the Town to use the tracks, but first Ridgely must write a proposal stating why it wants use of the tracks. Joe quickly reviewed development projects for Ridgely, including a revised site plan for the Cowbarn, Mr. Brodie's center, Ridgely Park and Walnut Farms. Mr. Brodie's center will have a Subway restaurant, a drycleaner and an Italian restaurant. The fourth shop is not yet reserved. Joe noted Bay Rose florist shop may not stay in Denton because the owner isn't doing well, and added that a florist would be a good choice to occupy the vacant space at Mr. Brodie's.

Hanover Foods had recently been in violation with their spray irrigation, and if they do not comply, they will be shut down. Joe said Hanover has agreed to hold for sixty (60) days and build a lagoon on Peaviner Road, which they would probably need to find a loan to help pay for. Brenda asked how many people Hanover currently employees, to which Joe responded roughly eighty (80). Although Hanover is helpful for employment in the area, Joe said the two biggest impacts they make on Ridgely are property tax and personal property tax.

John B. said that he wrote letters to Woody and John G., asking what their intention was with the E.D.C.. Woody wrote a letter of resignation in return, and John G. resigned verbally to John B., saying that he would write a letter as well. John B. told E.D.C. members to make recommendations as to who they would like to join. Joe reminded members that new members can be business owners, but at least one has to reside in Ridgely. The Commissioners will ultimately nominate and approve the new members.

Cary Malkus and Joe toured the New Roads building with Mr. Brodie. Mr. Brodie told Joe that Subrina Guy was opening a daycare center there and that Frank Hall from Trappe was interested in possibly opening a fitness center in the building. Joe said that in efforts to draw in another new business for Ridgely, he contacted Dollar Store for Mr. Woo, but has not heard anything back. John stated that Mr. Woo's shop doesn't have restroom facilities in it. Eastern Shore Overhead Door has had many complaints about their storage and traffic problems from one Ridgely resident. In efforts to appease the resident, E.S.O.D. is planning on putting a fence around their storage area. Brenda notified E.D.C. members that the Olde Town Creamery would be shutting down at the end of the week.

Trish Puckett asked if the town would be able to repair her sidewalk. Joe told her that the Town wouldn't be able to fix it until after it is put in the budget, but that she could have it done herself. He also recommended that Trish come in and meet with himself and Robin about it, saying that it may have to be approved by the Commissioners.

7:19 pm: Meeting Ended