

Ridgely E.D.C. Meeting
September 12, 2007

In Attendance: John Balderson, Joe Mangini, Portia Dunst, Brenda Walls, Subrena Guy, Eric Mangini, Sara Wright

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

There was no E.D.C. meeting in August, so the agenda from what would have been the August meeting was used for September.

Subrena Guy came to discuss her business plan and possible financial aide for the business. Joe had also asked Tom Morris from Lister Estates to come to the meeting to discuss his idea to open a car wash in Ridgely, but he was unable to attend. Joe also said that he had not heard anything more from Frank Hall on opening a gym, and that Cynthia Pyron would not be in attendance of the current meeting. Ms. Pyron will be a the next E.D.C. meeting to discuss marketing for the Tech Park and the possibility of changing Clarks Racetrack Road to Airport Road.

The next Tech Park marketing meeting will be on September 13, 2007. County Commissioners would like to tear the Hayman Farmhouse down and rebuild, but Ridgely Commissioners are hesitant to sign off that they don't want the house. The signatures will be necessary for the County to get a demolition permit for the Hayman House.

Joe discussed the Local Revolving Loan Fund and the Strategic Revitalization Plan; stating that the E.D.C. should work with the other committees in Ridgely to avoid complications. Joe also informed the E.D.C. that the water tank project had been stopped. Currently, the Town does not even have authority to go on the land to conduct a soil test. The County would like for Whitman- Requardt to work with URS on the water tank project.

Bryan Saathoff is still interested in The Cowbarn, and has asked for a letter from the Town stating that he is "wanted" there. John asked how the Town of Ridgely could do that before it even owns the property. Joe explained that the E.D.C. could simply request that a letter is written. Joe also said that he had spoken with JOK Walsh about the possibility of Chesapeake College wanting The Cowbarn for a theatre and thought that if it were to be a dinner theatre, that it would be okay with him. Brenda reminded Joe and the rest of the E.D.C. to be sure that Bryan Saathoff has the money to take on this project. Joe said that Bryan has assured him he is financially able to do the project but, that he would like an "okay" from the Town.

Mr. Thayer from Thayer Productions will be renting a bay from Mr. Musselman, and may need some financial assistance.

Mr. Brodie has been working on the old New Roads building and has put up the new sign. He sold the Denton Plaza recently and has put a for sale sign up at the future Ridgely Plaza site. Joe said he left Mr. Brodie a voicemail and is waiting for a call back.

Brenda said it looked to her like Mr. Woo was nearly done the renovations on his building, although Joe said he would like to speak with Mr. Woo about the façade.

The Caroline County Association of Municipalities will be having their next dinner meeting at Vicky's.

Joe gave an update on the Rails to Trails project, saying that the committee has asked for a letter of request to be written to the State for use of the rails. He added that members had been asked to pick a trail to visit, and that the Historical Society would like to start laying the engraved bricks by the end of the month. The State grant is still available to cover anything linked to the Rails to Trails project, such as planning and design.

John read Portia's letter of resignation, which states that effective September 30, 2007 she would like to be released of her duties on the E.D.C.. Brenda asked if perhaps Leo Stepp could be appointed to the E.D.C., saying that she had spoken to him recently and he seemed interested. Joe stated the he knew Mr. Stepp would prefer to be on Planning and Zoning but would probably join Economic Development.

On September 20th, Joe will be meeting with JOK Walsh and Hanover Foods in regard to the grant for the holding pools. Joe said he had offered to assist Hanover with the grant for a fee.

Subrena Guy discussed her business plan for opening a daycare center with the capacity for sixty (60) children. She said that she would like to request grant money to help with the rent, which is going to be about \$3500. per month. Joe added that Subrena is going to JOK Walsh for help because, although Ridgely has the money in the bank, there is no way of distributing it. However, Joe said it may be possible to do a guarantee loan for her. Brenda asked if Subrena had an idea of how long it would be before she was up and running, to which Subrena answered sixty (60) days. Brenda then complimented Subrena's business plan and recommended that she look into a home equity loan, which could be used as a tax write off.

Eric Mangini shared his plans to start a newspaper for Ridgely. The first publication, titled "City State", will be printed and mailed by October 15, 2007. Eric said that the E.D.C. will probably be working the closest with the newspaper, and that he plans on profiling town businesses, churches and organizations. He intends to make initial visitations to get basic information, then will update monthly via email. Joe added that it will be an independent paper, but that everything, including printing, will be done in town. The City State will be distributed to the entire zip code.

Joe noted that the Commissioners of Ridgely had approved a feasibility survey for a public safety building.

7:35 pm- Meeting Ended