

Town of Walkersville
Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2014

Attendees; Commissioner Gary Baker, Ben Douds, Ray Soderberg, Clara Winch, Dawn Hipsley
Citizen attendees; None

7:33 pm meeting is called to order by Ben Douds.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as read. Moved by Ray Soderberg with a 2nd by Ben Douds. Passed 4-0

Update on T-shirts, by Gary. They are on order and in process and he will deliver them when they are complete.

Surveys – we will give business cards and pens when we conduct our surveys. Dawn will order the pens. They should read Walkersville Economic Development Commission Walkersville-md.com (301) 845-4500. We will get 250 (or wherever the price break is) stick pens with black ink.

Clara brought up the thought of giving out placards as a tool to get the word out about the EDC. Discussion was had about potentially doing a contest (either annually or quarterly) and giving the placards as the prize to display.

Ray and Dawn will draft a letter of thanks to send out to the businesses after the survey has been completed.

Gary will post on Facebook for Walkersville Day on 5/17. Dawn will look at cross posting on other towns pages as well, such as Brunswick, Middletown, Thurmont, Emmitsburg and Thurmont.

Website – Gary will follow up and check status of website with Gloria. Is there any outstanding content needed? Can we make our Facebook page our live news feed on the website? It was confirmed that Clara will attend the meeting on behalf of the EDC.

Discussion on commercial code was had in regards to B1, residential areas with limited retail and service industries. We discussed how we could incorporate this to start a “Main St” feel to the town to get things growing and spreading in the right direction.

Ben brought up the parking ideas and discussion was had about long term goals of the EDC. How can we help bring businesses into town? What can we do to help fill our empty spaces? Dawn & Ray will draft a letter to Mr. Tomarchio about how we can help with the Safeway shopping center.

Citizen Issues:

Ray Soderberg brought up incidents of vandalism over the past few weeks. Lonza, Walkersville Railroad, Ray and Troopers were all represented. It appears there are a few men that are traveling in a dark colored small pick up that are breaking into railroad cars, automobiles, and buildings. When discussing this issue, it was noted that there used to be a very strong Trooper presence in the town and that seems to have dissipated over the last few years or so. What can we do to ensure that the law enforcement is ever present in our town?

Ben asks if there are any more concerns, the meeting is adjourned at 9:15 pm.

As submitted by Dawn Quicksell Hipsley