

TOWN OF WALKERSVILLE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
AUGUST 15, 2013

Present for the meeting: Ben Douds, Ray Soderberg, Sherry Loving, Dawn Hipsley, Town Commissioner Gary Baker, 2 citizens.

Discussion about our mission statement was started, we had put an email around to the members and each person had the opportunity to add their thoughts and changes. Below is the statement we have unofficially decided on. It will be brought up at the next meeting to approve.

Our mission is to promote a high quality of life for all residents of the town of Walkersville by encouraging policies leading to a more vibrant local economy with greater professional, commercial and employment opportunities.

Encourage economic growth by inspiring productive business environment among town leaders, residents and businesses.

Discussion was had to include high quality of life before economic growth, to set the tone for the statement being about the town residents first. Want to make sure that we are not implying that we are going to grow by residency, but commercially. Gary read the bylaws and our current statement stays within that.

Ben: Agenda item #2 what are our thoughts on policies. Dawn brought up starting with what is already here. Get involved with highlighting a company a quarter, have ice cream socials, fire departments, etc.

Ray: How can we work with the town and the business that are already here and get them to come back for other events.

Sherry: They hear, "I live right down the road and I had no idea you were even here!" Let's get word out that there are businesses right here in town. Small towns encourage community. Where else is there to shop in Walkersville? Where is there to eat in Walkersville? She recommends that Walkersville should have a tourist map, it would be a great asset to the residents and visitors of Town Hall. Another asset would be a calendar of events.

As brought up before, a farmers market could be a great success. Monthly newsletter and/or social network would also be a good idea.

Ben had 4 categories: Information, gather info about what we need/want to do. Such as a manifest. Survey among residents and businesses, about what they want or need. (Erica suggested a Facebook survey) It would be a bit of a hassle for the person running the FB/Twitter page, so maybe offer a stipend? Town Commissioner should reach out to each new business. Website etc...

Medium term; cultural – identify with the town. Social events, fun run, Xmas tree lighting ceremony. Jack O lantern carving contest, etc...

Long term : Town tax code, building codes, how does that affect the growth of the town, do we need to learn more about that.

4 items to chose:

Facebook – Sherry to do social media (Walkersville – Our Town) (Ray asked about security of social media) (Mr. Rudy asked about Independent Contractors, his work is important but he'll never sell a nuclear reactor in Walkersville)

Working list of town businesses: Dawn will work on brick and mortar business manifest also commercial land owners and contact information.

Website – Ben Douds will investigate having someone do our website. Mr. Rudy -Andrew Bowen is Gloria's counterpart in Middletown (we can ask who they used) Erica was in agreement. Main St manager type concept. It was also suggested that we get a high school student and help with community service hours for him/her.

Contact other EDC to meet with us etc...- Ray to establish contacts.

Mr. Rudy – suggested Welcome Wagon to the HOA's and Realtors, keep in touch with the residents and the businesses. Take a look at Middletown's website and see what they have for the links on where to eat, where to shop, etc...maybe look at putting an EDC link on each business website. 2 recommendations: Marcella's and the gas station. It appears that there are a lack of tools to address these two issues that are currently disasters. Go before burgess & Commissioners and planning and zoning. Ted Marcio who owns the Exxon station and Safeway...have him be responsible for the graffiti coming down. Also addressed the needle issue with the State Trooper, he is not happy with the result of his questions. He will cc us in the letter he is going to write to the trooper.

Erica – Catocin Sun Nature Pre-School is in the old stable where Challedon was held. Owned by Church of the Brethren. She is co-founder of this preschool. Neighborhood watch chairman.

Swearing in 8.28 7:30 town meeting.

Send out minutes

Traci Franklin – new WHS principal. Met with Gary and Russ.

Meet with other EDCs

Meeting adjourned by Ben Douds at: 8:37 pm