

Ridgely E.D.C. Meeting  
February 21, 2007

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

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

Brenda Walls advised that 19 N. Central Avenue is going on the market for \$209,000.00. The property is zoned commercial.

Members had been asked to think of new businesses/ stores that they would like to see come to Ridgely. Brenda Walls' ideas for stores include; florist, bookstore, consignment shop, doctor, recreation center, new restaurant and a car wash. She also noted that she knows someone who has been looking into starting a car wash in the area, and that he had gotten prices for it. John Balderson agreed with Brenda, and would like to see a car wash come to the area. He noted that the water for the car wash would have to be re-circulated though. Portia Dunst would like to have a bakery in town, and John Guthrie would like to have a dessert café. Woody Woodworth did not have any ideas for the new stores.

John G. brought up that he had spoken with Mr. Woo about the vacant stores on Central Avenue. Mr. Woo had told John that he had some ideas for the stores, but that he had been busy with personal events recently. Brenda and John G. both agree that Mr. Woo should get incentive to hang curtains across the windows rather than board them up.

Woody said that he would like to see Railroad Avenue get developed into stores.

Joe arrived late due a prior engagement with URS. He brought up Mr. Brody's new five (5) unit centre to be built next to Rob's Quality Car Care. Mr. Brody has the intention of having a dry cleaner, tanning salon, Subway restaurant, and a Dunkin Donuts at that location. Joe said Mr. Brody had planned on bringing Colosseum Restaurant to the centre as well, but is concerned about possible competition with Subway. Joe also informed the group that Mr. Brody is buying the New Roads building and has clients prepared to come in for warehousing. Joe had recommended to Mr. Brody that he convert the building into a recreation center, but Mr. Brody will not do it.

Joe also discussed the possibility of building an Agricultural Research Center by the future Mid-Shore Tech/ Business Park. He said that he had talked to JOK Walsh, as well as Charlie Cawley, and that they would like for Joe to write a letter of recommendation for it. Joe said that it is a possibility, considering Ridgely already has everything in place for the center to come now, and the County is supportive.

Other news from Joe; Bob Musselman owns a ten (10) unit building on Belle Street, and would like to rent the units rather than sell them. Joe also said that Bryan Saathoff is still ready to go ahead with his plans for the Cowbarn, but has to wait on the approval of the Cowbarn Project itself. Woody brought up another project in discussion; the new Fire

Station/ Public Service Center, and asked if there would be a reception hall included in that building. According to Joe, there will be one, and it will be located in the bottom part of the building.

Portia informed the group that Sunrise Distribution will be changing its name to Medifast Distribution Center.

Joe let the group know that there is \$25,000.00 in Ridgely's E.D.C. fund, and said that the group will have to set up a program to disperse the money. Joe also said that he would talk to some other towns for help in setting up the plan.

7:56 pm: Meeting Dismissed by John Balderson

Next meeting: March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Business After Hours Social.