

**Ridgely E.D.C. Meeting  
March 12, 2008**

The March meeting of the Ridgely Economic Development Commission was called to order by at 6:40 P.M. In Attendance were Joe Mangini, John Balderson, Leo Stepp, Jerry Sutton, Cynthia Pyron, and Sara Wright.

**Approval of the Minutes:**

Minutes for March 12, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved.

**Special Guest Time:**

Cynthia Pyron was welcomed as guest speaker for the March meeting of Ridgely Economic Development. She is working under Charlie Cawley as Marketing Director of the Tech Park. A website is in the works and, a slideshow has already been created to show the Tech Park's layout. The slideshow was shown and discussed. Ms. Pyron has been in contact with several different government subcontractors, as well as an orchid cloning company called Top Orchid, about going into the Tech Park. She noted that she would really like to see a daycare center and a doctor's office located in the Park. There was some discussion about possibly having the high school help market Tech Park jobs.

Phase I of the Caroline Tech Park will have a 100,000 square foot building, and parking for 500 vehicles. The area cannot be considered high security though if there is vehicle traffic within 150 feet of the building. Ms. Pyron would like to see the Tech Park attract and retain well educated people to the area.

**Town Manager's Time:**

Joe explained the Ridgely Economic Development Commission to Cynthia Pyron, and shared with her all the new projects for Ridgely.

**DBED Grants Review:**

**New Elevated Water Storage Tank/ Tech Park:**

There was no progress to report on the elevated water storage tank.

**New Business Opportunities/ Ventures/ Concerns:**

**Musselman Business Complex:**

Joe shared that he had met with the owner of TMZ Computer. The gentleman was interested in opening his business in Mr. Musselman's building. Joe advised him to send in a letter of intent, which was not received as of the meeting date(3/12/08).

**Day Care Center/ Brody Building:**

Subrena Guy signed a lease with Mr. Brodie for a 70,070 square foot area to open her daycare. Her loan application to the Ridgely E.D.C. was reviewed, but a decision was not made. The E.D.C. will have to check on money coming in from DBED, as well as get a guarantee. Loan structure also has to be decided upon. Phone calls and additional meetings may be required to tie up loose ends.

Subway Shopping Center:

Mr. Brodie's Shopping center will have four stores, three of which are already reserved. There will be a Subway, Colosseum restaurant, and a tanning parlor. The fourth store has two people/ businesses interested in it, but is currently still available.

Sam's/ Vicky's Restaurant:

The old Vicky's restaurant, owned by Mr. Brodie, will be converted into a new restaurant and two stores. The restaurant will serve breakfast lunch and dinner.

**Development Projects Review:**

Problems with MDE were resolved. Ridgeway Estates and 128 Walnut were both approved to start work.

**Old Business:**

**Hanover Foods Update:**

Hanover Foods has a public hearing scheduled for March 20, 2008 about their DBED grant.

**Rails to Trails Update:**

Ridgely Rails to Trails has brought a consultant on board and the project planning will start soon.

**New Business:**

**Municipal Public Safety Building:**

Joe visited the new public safety building in Pocomoke to get ideas for one in Ridgely. He said that Pocomoke saved money on theirs by staying with one contractor (Blades Construction) for both planning and design. Ridgely may not be able to do that though because of the grant money; it may be required to bid out for each.

**Commission Roundtable Discussion:**

There was no discussion by the commission.

**Next Meeting:**

**April 9, 2008**

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 P.M.