

Ridgely E.D.C. Meeting
April 9, 2008

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

Approval of the Minutes:

Minutes for March 12, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved.

Town Manager's Time:

DBED Grants Review:

New Elevated Water Storage Tank/ Tech Park:

The County is still experiencing delays due to wetlands issues.

New Business Opportunities/ Ventures/ Concerns:

Musselman Business Complex:

Joe said he had not heard from Mr. Thayer recently.

The gentleman from TMZ Computer is still trying to get started, and wants to lease space for his business.

Day Care Center/ Brodie Building:

Subrena Guy has been approved to go into Mr. Brodie's building and has already signed a lease. She is waiting on loan money, which is on hold until she presents her tax return paperwork and credit report to the Town of Ridgely.

Mr. Brodie is still trying to get a medical center to occupy his building as well.

Subway Shopping Center:

Ground was broke for the four (4) store Subway Shopping Center.

Sam's/ Vicky's Restaurant:

The old Vicky's restaurant, owned by Mr. Brodie, will be converted into a new restaurant to be run by the owner of Vonnie's in Kennedyville. Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be served in the new restaurant. The old Sam's banquet room is available for lease as a store. Kelly said she would like to see a florist open shop in the space.

English Pub:

Nicola Hall approached Joe about opening an English Pub in Ridgely. Joe sent her to talk to JOK Walsh about getting financial aide to start her business. Ms. Hall was interested in Chuck and Brenda Walls' house at 2 North Maryland Avenue. She would like to cook and serve English food and use the backyard as an English courtyard.

Municipal Projects Review:

The Commissioners of Ridgely approved finding a loan for the \$1.5 million waste water treatment plant upgrade. Town Attorney, Jack Hall, had Ridgely create a resolution stating their intent to find a loan in that amount.

Old Business:

Hanover Foods Update:

Caroline County Commissioners approved the grant for Hanover Foods. They should be starting construction within the next month.

Rails to Trails Update:

Sue Simmons was contacted by the State of Maryland about some concerns they had with the location of the caboose, phone building and memorial bricks. The caboose was located on the State's right of way and the building and bricks were in their easement. In its new location though, the phone building will be located on the Town's property. The State has asked Ridgely to move the Caboose down the tracks and onto the breakaway section of rails. As well, the State requested that the recycling area be relocated and it was noted that parking on the grass would have to be discontinued.

Ridgely Town Commissioners approved the lease for use of the tracks, and has already returned it to the State for finalization. The lease will have a clause to include annexation of the waste water treatment plant.

Preliminary plans for Ridgely Rails to Trails will be presented to Ridgely Commissioners on April 21, 2008.

MDE Issue Update:

Maryland Department of the Environment has agreed to allow Ridgely to add 25,000 gallons to their allocation.

New Business:

Municipal Public Safety Building:

Joe scheduled a meeting with the contractor of Pocomoke's public safety building for a tour of the facility. The contractor, from Blades Construction, will also be coming to Ridgely to meet with the Ridgely Volunteer Fire Department.

Commission Roundtable Discussion:

Kelly asked when Mr. Brodie's new restaurant would be opening. Joe explained that Mr. Brodie was hoping to have it open within the next thirty (30) days; before the Strawberry Festival. Kelly also asked what Mr. Woo is doing with his vacant space, saying that she would like to see it converted into a gym. There was some discussion about the space he has, but it was brought to members' attention that there is no bathroom in the downstairs area and that he could not rent it for that reason. Joe encouraged EDC members to solicit

other businesses for Ridgely but, reminded them to let the Chairman know before they do.

A reminder was given that the first meeting of the landfill advisory committee will be on April 14, 2008.

Next Meeting:
May 14, 2008

Adjournment:
Meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.