



Peekskill Business Improvement District Minutes
Tuesday, September 12, 2017
Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce
One South Division Street, Peekskill, NY

Call meeting to order

Meeting called to order by Executive Director Bill Powers at 6:10pm

Present: Giovanni Stiefelmann, Frank Pugliese, Jim Pinto, Kathie Talbot and Executive Director Bill Powers. John Sharp Brendon Fitzgerald, Louie Lanza. Absent: Jeorjia Shea, Anne Scaglione, Sean Kearney, Roya Zarrehtarvar. Guest: City Manager Richard Leins.

September Minutes: Motion by Pugliese/Pinto to accept September Board meeting minutes as presented—motion carried.

Banners: Mr. Powers spoke about the St. Peters banners that were recently affixed to some of the utility poles in the downtown area. He explained that there was some confusion over approval procedures. The BID owns the hardware, the City owns the poles. Mr. Powers has addressed the issue with City Hall and it has been resolved. Going forward, the City Manager must sign off on any banners.

Flower Barrels: Complaints are being made about the lack of color, maintenance and the type of plants planted. Mr. Powers explained that due to a limited budget, hardier type plants called succulents were planted in conjunction with flowering plants and the center boxwood. The BID budget was \$15K for plantings, yet the low bid was received for \$18K. In light of that, there was a change in plants. There was some discussion from BID members about the haphazard nature of the placement of the barrels around town and about people knocking them over late at night, and about changing the plantings for next year. A suggestion was made to have individual sponsorship of the barrels, concentrating placement at key “entry corridors,” and looking at more hanging baskets in lieu of barrels. A committee was set up and approved involving Brian, Sepp Spenlinhauer Brian Fassett, Councilwoman Talbot and one of two others. The committee was set up at the discretion of Pres. Sharp with support from the board. Mr. Powers and Mr. Leins will be called upon as necessary. The committee will immediately focus on holiday decorations, followed by the flower planters.

Shuttle: Mr. Sharp reported that the issues brought forth by the taxis involving the shuttle are being addressed.

Parking: Mr. Pinto reported that consultants have been hired by the City to commence with the parking study. Signage will also be looked at regarding current parking rules.

Noise Levels: Councilwoman Talbot noted regarding complaints of loud noise from the music series on Division Street. It seems to have been an isolated incident, which is now under control. Ms. Talbot showed a copy of the “noise ordinance” in the City’s code, large and voluminous. Apparently it is the same individual/individuals who are making the complaints over and over and it was noted that living in a vibrant downtown may be a bit noisy at times.

Old Business: Mr. Pugliese noted that his concerns regarding the proposed Dunkin Donuts at James and Main were answered by Ms. Friedman from Planning. All procedures, colors, etc. are under the proper scrutiny of the City. There was a discussion about the appropriateness and viability of this franchise and a review of past history of the BID’s concerns over franchises. Mr. Powers was asked to draft a letter to the City, expressing the BID Board members’ concerns about the impact of this business on the downtown and existing coffee/tea shops already in operation.

Advertising: Mr. Sharp talked about promoting a “unified approach” to marketing the downtown area and particular attention should now be focused on the upcoming Holiday season to draw shoppers to patronize the downtown retail stores.

New Year’s Eve: When asked, Mr. Powers noted that the BID contributes advertising monies only, not actually involved in the event.

Motion for adjournment @ 7:25pm, carried

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Pugliese
Secretary