

Downtown Business District
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 24, 2016
330 Main Street, Middletown, CT

Attendees

Diane Gervais (Chair)	Sgt. Brokop (Police Department)
Marc Levin (Commissioner)	Geen Thazhampallath (Director of Parking)
Mike DiPiro (Commissioner)	Tom Marano (Planning Department)
Jennifer Alexander (Commissioner)	Chris Holden (Public Works)
Gary Nagler (Commissioner)	Cathy Duncan (Chamber of Commerce)
Mary Ann Perrotti (Commissioner)	Pamela Steele (Pamela Roose Specialty Yarns)
Valerie Scribano (Commissioner)	

Minutes -

- Motion made by Marc Levin to approve
- 2nd by Mike DiPiro
- Minutes accepted

Treasurer's Report – Mike DiPiro

Mike reports we are one month onto are new year and everything looks good.
The final payment for the 2015-2016 fiscal year was collected and deposited.

- Motion made by Marc Levin to approve
- 2nd by Jen Alexander
- Treasurer's Report accepted.

Chair Update – Diane Gervais

Marketing: New commercials have started airing; we are airing new commercials and then will filter in the existing ones. I showed them at the last CBB meeting, they were very well received.

Gift Cards: We have 3 new businesses accepting gift cards, Hop Knot, Barberdolls, and Perk on Main. Continuing to run smoothly, currently Amato's cannot sell gift cards due to a computer issue stemming from the recent storm; I hope to have it rectified soon.

Holiday Lighting: I have been working with Joe Samolis since January on securing city funding to purchase 3 cross street snowflake decorations to continue our lighting upgrade. They have committed some money and we are currently working out how the cost will be split with the city and the Chamber. I think we will be looking at an expenditure of just under \$15,000 with our share being in the neighborhood of \$4000...Joe is away until next week, so I hope to have it worked out then with Larry and Joe. I would like a vote to approve our commitment up to \$5000. So that once we get an agreement I can get the order placed, each month we wait the expense goes up. A motion was made by Jen Alexander to contribute up to \$5,000 for snowflake decorations; 2nd by Mary Ann Perrotti; approved by all.

Wesleyan Welcome Back....Jen had a great idea and we will be sending out an email to our businesses to encourage participation.

Wesleyan University and Middlesex Community College posters will be distributed this week.

We received an invoice from the city for \$48.18 for mailing our tax bills; apparently they now feel that this is our expense to pay. What are your thoughts?

Police Report – Sgt. Brokop

Sgt. Brokop reports Motorcycle Mania went well. There was a minor problem with bicyclist on Main Street. The police were notified and the situation was resolved. Over the weekend it was reported that both the Chamber of Commerce and a business in the North End had windows broken.

Planning – Tom Marano

Tom reports the Hajjar project is going well. The CO for occupancy should be ready around December. The construction for the new FedEx building is coming along nicely. By year's end Safe Home Security should be opening creating a couple hundred jobs. The new Starbucks on Washington Street is under construction. The Tractor Supply store on Newfield Street has opened for business. KRUST will be opening a new business at 505 Main Street. Mi Argentina restaurant has closed.

Parking Report - Geen Thazhampallath

Geen reports the parking department is working on project by Chamber; City Lot Side A. All Main Street parking meters will be changed to new meter heads with raised buttons and larger screens. Fred Kestenbaum is now working part time.

Public Works – Chris Holden

Chris reports the public works department has converted all the downtown street lights to LED's. They will be replacing the tree in between Amato's and Itkins. There are other trees along Main Street that need attention and to be cared for.

Chamber of Commerce – Cathy Duncan

The first meeting for Holiday on Main will be held on Tuesday August 30th. The Chamber is looking for a new vendor for the horse and wagon rides.

Grand Openings is as follows:

- Saturday, August 27th – Tractor Supply, 815 Newfield Street at 9:00am

Grand Re-Opening is as follows:

- Wednesday, August 31st – Red Fox Restaurant & Bar, 218 Smith Street at 4:00pm

CBB Meeting

Thursday, September 1st at 7:30am DOT will be speaking on Route 9 changes

New Business –

After a series of meetings with Tom Marano, Dan Litwin of Young's Printing offered to create and print welcoming door decals to promote doing business locally. A sample was shown and the DBD voiced its support of Dan and Diane distributing them to local businesses.

- Motion to adjourn by Jen Alexander
- 2nd by Valerie Scribano