

Downtown Business District
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 23, 2015
330 Main Street, Middletown, CT

Attendees

Diane Gervais (Chair)	Sean Moriarity (Police Department)
Jennifer Alexander (Commissioner)	William Russo (Public Works)
Peter Harding (Commissioner)	Tom Marano (Planning)
Mike DiPiro (Commissioner)	Trevor Davis (Commercial Real Estate)
Mary Ann Perrotti (Commissioner)	Cathy Duncan (Chamber of Commerce)
	Pamela Steele (Business Owner)
	Sandra Russo-Driska (Business Owner)
	Lisa Melaven (DBD Office)

Minutes

- Motion made by Jennifer Alexander to approve
- 2nd by Mike DiPiro
- Minutes accepted

Treasurer's Report – Mike DiPiro

Mike reports the Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual report had a couple of revisions to be made on the line items. We will be sending a letter to the City of Middletown's Finance Department requesting our first installment to the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

- Motion to approve by Jennifer Alexander
- 2nd by Peter Harding
- Treasurer's Report accepted.

Maintenance Report – Tom Ford

None

Diane report the sidewalk sweeping is being done.

Beautification – Diane Gervais

See Chair Update

Marketing –

See Chair Update

Police Report – Sean Moriarity

Sean reports when musicians are on Main Street, the tones need to be at a moderate level, and for safety reasons all excessive cords would need to be covered up. A couple of businesses were burglarized on Main St, and the person of interest was arrested. Diane has concerns that there are drifts of new people moving into downtown. Sandra mentioned there will be more transitional sites are opening up in Middletown, which will bring in more transitional folks to Main Street. Other areas of concerns, people are hanging out in front of businesses during and after business hours loitering and panhandling. There needs to be more police presence/coverage. Tom Marano will reach out to the powers that be and the DOT, in relocating the bus stops along Main St., to one central location.

- Prescription medication(s) take back scheduled for – Saturday, September 26th 10:00am – 2:00pm

Public Works – William Russo

Bill reports the department is looking into low level lighting and cameras for the South Green Park, and also to add music. The purchase orders have been approved for Christmas decorations to update City Hall, South Green /Christmas tree. Public works is looking to clean up the tunnel floor going over to the River side. The Dark sky society will be presenting to the City of Middletown to install more LED lighting along the Main St. intersections, YMCA and Middlesex Hospital. The Sanitation department has been doing a great job staying on top of things.

- Friday, July 1st – Fireworks
- Saturday, July 2nd – Rain date for Fireworks

Parking Report - Geen Thazhampallath

None

North End Report – Ann Marie Cannata

None

Planning – Tom Marano

Tom is continuing to work on the signage on Route 9 and buy local campaign. Wesleyan has their big “start – up” 3 day weekend event, where companies come in and work with the students on entrepreneurs, where prizes will be awarded. The winners will receive a certain amount of money to start up their new business. Tom is in the process of a development effort region wide along with river cog, in trying to do economic development and planning together. Fed Ex has all the City approvals, waiting to hear from the State for approval and are planning to move forward later in the year, ground breaking in the spring with a two year build out.

Chamber of Commerce – Cathy Duncan

- Middlesex Business To Business Expo – Monday, September 28th from 11:30 – 7:00
Business after work - Executive Evening at the Expo from 4:00 – 7:00
Speed Networking from 4:30 – 6:00 in the Nutmeg Room
- Business after work – November 8th – Festival of Wreaths will be sold
- Holiday on Main – starts Friday, November 27th 4:00 – 8:15, continuing through next four Saturdays.
- Grand re-opening Strike a pose – Tuesday September 29th at 4:00.

Pamela Steele will be celebrating her 5th year anniversary in November, will be passing out goodie bags.

New Business – Trevor Davis

- Paul Winters consort – October 23rd at 190 Court St.
- 300 year anniversary celebration of Webster Bank – November 12th
- New Years Eve prelude at First Church
- Planning 3 concerts in the Spring

Peter Harding mentioned Steve Ramani bought out the Itkins building.

Chair Update – Diane Gervais

- The planters will be changed out to fall next week.
- We are working on the new fall/winter 2015-2016 brochure and gift card sales are going fine.
- Lisa and I have interviews tomorrow for our ambassador program.
- Diane went to the Grand opening for blee & company, salon on main opening last week, fantastic looking salon and boutique!
- Diane will be setting up a meeting to discuss options in enhancing downtown holiday lighting.
- Marketing Campaign - We have four new commercials in production. The businesses highlighted are as follows: Amato's Toy and Hobby, Stage Left Dance Studio, The Emporium, EG Salon, Esca Restaurant, Sandra James Boutique, Metro Movies, First and Last Tavern, Cherry Berry, Fiore's 11, Tschudins Chocolates, Main Street.

The restaurant segment on Better CT with Scott Haney is in the works. We will highlight food from around the world at our local restaurants: O'Rourke's Diner, Tibetan Kitchen, Iguanas Ranas, Mikado Sushi Bar, Forbidden City, El Pulpo, Typhoon, Tuscany Grill, Tavern at the Armory, Mondo Pizza.

- The go Pink Party kick off party is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6th from 6:00 – 8:00pm at Mezzo Grille.

- Motion to adjourn by Peter Harding
- 2nd by Jennifer Alexander
- Approved

