

May NJ Transit meeting

May 14, 2013

Attendees:

Ken, Bill, Adam, Jason, Heidi, Marc, Walter, Peg

Discussions:

NJ Transit Brochure - Jason met with Luanne to review pictures and layout before the brochure is finalized. Jason was to bring a draft of the brochure to the Meet/Greet to present to the attendees and retailers, however his pc crashed, so was not able to send.

Grant – no new progress.

Lamp post baskets - Proposed the concept of “adopt a basket” by retailers near high-traffic corners at the Meet/Greet. Next steps will be based on retailer feedback. Received positive retailer feedback from Heidi’s cottage, Investors bank and Provident bank, so will now make recommendation to Council. For reference: web site, englishcreekgardens.com \$60-\$325 each for English planters.

Beautification of Dunellen - Revised sign ordinance was passed and should provide more clarity which will result in improved enforcement. Discussed enforcement, suggested Code and Sign enforcement be consolidated under one individual. Ken to propose. Discussed murals, follow up action items, is to identify if they are covered under the sign ordinance, or how they are currently addressed.

Retailer meeting – May 14 we hosted a retailer event at Roxy and Dukes and invited retailers as a venue for presentation of NJ Transit activities and additional participation from the local retailers. Committee members provided appetizers. Bill drafted and distributed a letter to invite non-profit organizations. Presentations done by Gravity, Dunellen Skylight Theatre, If I only had a Brain as well as retailers who attended. May NJ Transit meeting followed. One presentation was made by Peter Grof, representative of a non-profit, New Jersey Community Capital, petersgrof@gmail.com, as well as resident of Dunellen, who may be interested in joining the committee.

Retailer Vacancy – 12 vacant storefronts in Dunellen. Marc is working with Bill Robins to directly contact building owners, discuss renovation ideas.

Street Fair - scheduled for **September 8**. Jason received forms to assure our participation in this year's street fair. Bill purchased two NJ Transit Village signs in preparation for the event. Jason will complete forms on behalf of the committee.

Harvestfest – Council rejected the previously discussed Oktoberfest idea, due to concerns about serving alcohol. Discussed Harvestfest concept instead – featuring ideas such as square dance music, hay ride, apple pie contest, children's art contest, photo guessing contest for adults (sponsored by Dunellen Historic organization), pumpkin decorating or carving for children, hot dog vendor, food tables (local restaurants/merchants could set up tables to feature their foods at a reduced cost of \$25/table for in town retailers. Flyers promoting the event and participation should be distributed through schools mid September. Harvestfest may also include plays, vignettes. Committee chose Columbus Day weekend, Sunday, **October 13** as tentative date for the celebration. Bill/Ken will present to the Council. Walter Tunison to see if he has a contact for port-o-potty and if they are interested in donating to support the event/non-profit. Discussed participation with Boy/Girl scouts, church youth organizations, Dunellen football team, National Honor Society volunteers. Other ideas included: re-enactment of 1776 (Lord Sterling Park), Lincoln Gettysburg. Rotary Committee (who previously sponsored Art on the Green) had previously agreed to integrate the Arts/Crafts elements of Art on the Green into the Oktoberfest, so assume they will do the same for Harvestfest.

Next meeting - will be held **Tuesday June 18, at Roxy and Dukes, 7:00 pm.**