

**GREATER GEORGETOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
THE GEORGETOWN TRAIN STATION**

Wednesday, January 02, 2008

4:00

In Attendance: Jan Fraipont, Toby Givens, Helen Kruger, Lit Dryden, Debbie Hartstein, Judy Johnson, Ashley Hoban, Kyle Morgan, Ray Hopkins, Garry Killmon, Bernice Edwards and Robin Parker.

President Jan Fraipont called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm at the Georgetown Train Station, Georgetown, Delaware.

Minutes: The minutes were sent by email to all board members and copies were made available at the meeting. Judy Johnson made a motion to accept the minutes and Lit Dryden seconded.

Treasurer Report: No report due to absence.

Christmas Party: Toby spoke of the success of the Christmas party held in Dec. Next year the chamber may try something different.

January Mixer: to be held at Delaware National

February Mixer: Norma has been trying to contact Rosalee Walls regarding Truth in Life Living Center. Ray Hopkins suggested to contact Janet Trout.

Economic Development: Lit passed a motion for the chamber to participate in the comprehensive plan of the re-tooling of Sussex County. He felt that the chamber should be involved. Ray Hopkins seconded this motion to discuss this matter further. Jan suggested forming a committee in order to be prepared before addressing the County Council. Due to conflict of interest, Lit declined heading up the committee.

Lit feels that one of the benefits of the chambers involvement with this plan would be for us to have a voice in the comprehensive plan for Sussex County. There are other chambers that are currently involved. Another benefit would be the publicity that the chamber would receive with the county. There would be no loss with a possible gain.

Ray felt that it could be a great benefit however; it could be time consuming as well.

Ray proposed to vote. The vote was seconded and everyone accepted.

Rotary Winter Gala – The Rotary's annual winter Gala is coming up. The chamber advertised in the story book last year. Jan suggested placing a \$325 advertisement again this year for the Georgetown Chamber. Toby Givens made the motion and Debbie Hartstein seconded.

New Business – Bernice Edwards requested for a mixer to be held at First State Community Action in 2008. Ray Hopkins also requested a mixer at Servpro.

Gary Killmon suggested a “meet the candidates” mixer in September to possibly be held on the Georgetown circle. Details will need to be worked out later. Gary may need to contact the town manager about possibly rerouting traffic.

Lit has speakers for the Chamber lunches for Jan., Feb., and March. Jan will contact other interested volunteer speakers.

Bernice questioned the locations of Chamber lunches and Chamber breakfast for 2008. Toby has had contact with the Cheer Center continuing to hold the breakfast and he feels that they are very anxious to keep the breakfast meetings. The lunches will continue to be held at Del Tech.

Members – Helen announced we have 463 members at last count. She did voice some concern on how small businesses would be affected by the current economy.

A discussion was held on the numerous benefits of the businesses being a member of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce. A few of the benefits are:

- Web link – the chamber had over 60,000 hits in December
 - Very well organized
- Free monthly mixers
- Good referral base
- Free Christmas party
- Discounts on various services for Chamber members
- Networking
- Monthly newsletter
- Publicity
- Ribbon cuttings and a picture for new businesses.

Creekside Homes will be holding a ribbon cutting on Wednesday, January 15 at 10:00 on Route 9.

Joan Tyndall will continue to be doing the Chambers Newsletter. She will welcome a replacement.

Jan looks forward to the coming year as president. She will continue to follow up on some things that Toby had put into motion.

Helen motioned for the meeting to adjourn. Bernice seconded it.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Parker
Secretary