

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

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2007
4:00PM**

In Attendance: Toby Givens, Lit Dryden, Judy Johnson, Helen Kruger, Joy Sikora, Frank Stella, Charlie Koskey, Jamie Magee, Bobbi Engel, Bernice Edwards, Sue Messick, Garry Killmon, Martin Donovan, Randall Cash, Jan Fraipont, Joan Tyndall, Jeanne Dukes and Debbie Hartstein

President Toby Givens called the meeting to order at 4:05pm 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. The minutes were approved by Helen Kruger and Joy Sikora seconded.

Economic Development: Lit reported on today's meeting. Reminding everyone that they are invited at 12noon first Wednesday of each month at the Train Station. He stated nothing significant just going over what they had already discussed. Helen was asked by her contact at One Stop on the plans of the Richard Calhoun Property. Lit stated the property was sold to Common Wealth in Wilmington. Tim Jones noted he has been in contact directly with Royal Farms. Drawing of the proposal was passed out and reviewed by the chamber members. Joan stated that this will be a long drawn out process. It will be years before anything will be complete. The contact at One Stop didn't want to commit to being a chamber member if her business would be affected by any competition. Lit stated we cannot stop progress plus there are many other projects in the works that will affect the growth of Georgetown. Toby had Richard Veasey stop by his shop wanting a letter from the Chamber stating we were against the King Project. The board was unanimous that we cannot write a letter. We must be neutral. Toby will send Mr. Veasey a copy of the minutes showing we voted not to comment on the King Project.

Randall wanted to clarify to the Board that his letter about the King Farm had been butchered by the News Journal but that the Countian and the other local papers had reproduced it almost exactly as he had written it. He also said that it was the Economic Development Committee which had initiated the process which led to the King Farm at its very first meeting when it decided that Georgetown needed good developers and asked DEDO for help and they put the Committee in contact with The Commonwealth Group.

Randall said that, while the Chamber couldn't take a position on a particular development, the very nature of an economic development committee was to seek development.

During the meeting Joan spoke with Jose Somalas and found he not only works for Hoy but also for Small Business Development. Joan asked if he knew of someone that would be able to be part of the chamber to help with communications and to get more involvement from the Hispanic Community. Jose said he would talk to Rosa which works in his office to see if she would be interested on coming on the board. Helen stated we have Eva Dodd and Michelle from Elite Group that are also members. Joan was looking for someone that would be interested in coming to meetings each month.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Report was emailed to all members and copies were submitted at the meeting. Nothing earth shattering. Added year to date column as requested. Joan moved another CD that came due. Noted New Dues column up significantly as expected. Toby noted we are saving in some areas and spending in others. Helen made motion to accept treasurer's report and Randall seconded.

Tourism Report: Bobbi Engel presented the Spread Sheet (attachment) noting their physical year is July 1st to June 30th. Bobbi also has narrative written on what was done in past year. If anyone would like a copy of the narrative to contact Bobbi. Noted on the budget \$2541.50 was carried over. Bobbi noted she is contacting the General Manager at the Airport to plan a Flyover and meeting with Bobby at Sports at the Beach to work on future tourism plans. Jeanne asked if we applied for the RFD Grant and what procedures and specifications were included? Bobbi stated we had applied and it is in the narrative which she will send to Jeanne. Bobbi also wanted to confirm that some of the cost from the Spring Festival will be applied to the Tourism Budget and 25% of the Chamber Salary should also be part of the Tourism Budget.

Membership Report: Helen reported we now have 424 members. There were four Ribbon Cuttings. September Ribbon cuttings will be Melvin Joseph – 10th, Cross Roads-17th, Elite – 20th and Perdue – 27th. Helen also is now giving a 5x7 Frame Picture of the Ribbon Cutting to the businesses. She got the idea from Charlie as he has his displayed in his business from many years ago. Rita's Kitchen Ribbon Cutting was framed and the board was able to see the finished product. All agreed it was an inexpensive good idea. Helen stated she is waiting for about 10 more to sign up. Dream Vacation signed up last week and was thrilled she got the phone call since she just hadn't had a chance to call us.

Newsletter: Laura is on vacation. Joan may be doing the newsletter tonight. Asked if anyone has any ideas or news for the newsletter to please contact her as soon as possible. They had added two more pages last time and are over 12 pages now. Trying to think of different things to put in the newsletter. Charlie asked if there was anyway to do Anniversary dates. Bobbi stated Rehoboth highlights New Businesses by putting little articles on what their business does. They only choose 3 or 4 and not sure how they choose them. Jeanne suggested we put about skills of our members – such as, How to get the best copier by Randall or how to find the best diamond by Charlie, etc. . Helen noted that Jane West was excited to get a newsletter even though she wasn't a member and now she plans to join. Joan stated that if they had any newsletters left over she would send them out asking them to join. Toby wants the newsletter to start plugging for the Christmas Parade. Helen would like to see information put in about the new Doctors Office on the highway.

Christmas Party: Sue, Donna and Bernice met last Saturday regarding the party. After long discussions, they decided to keep the party at the Marvel Museum Barn. The date of the party will be December 14th at 7pm. They would like to have a Program printed. The Crusers will play from 7 to 11pm. Bernice would like the Officers installed at the beginning of the evening. Sue stated they will again have beer, wine, punch and heavy hors d'oeuvres with Casual Attire. The party will be free and catered by First State Caterers. Joan will get a list together and requesting RSVP to the chamber. Jeanne asked the capacity of the Barn and Sue thought it was around 200. Toby said we may be cozy this year. Bernice felt that the band should not be under tents or in a separate room.

Christmas Parade: Jan announced there is a meeting next Thursday at the Train Station and asked anyone that is interested in helping to please join them. Letters have gone out for donations and grants are in the works. Toby asked if Jan has spoken to anyone at Wal-Mart. Jan has a meeting with the Manager next week.

Summer Festival: Sue started by asking that the Comcast Bill be submitted to Southern Delaware Tourism. Also, the First State Force is not funded by the State of Delaware and they are still together. We always give them money. They didn't play this year because in their contract they are unable to play more than 3 dates in a certain time frame and they were over booked. Garry made a motion to give \$200 and Sue seconded.

Breakfast Meeting: Del Tech 9/13/07 7:30-8:30am Terry Johnson Speaker
Mixer: Sharp Energy 9/19/07 4:30-6:30pm Hamburgers/Hot Dogs Provided

New Business: Joan was approached by someone from Easter Seals regarding having a Business Expo. This is done in Dover and Millsboro already. Joan asked if anyone was familiar on how to set one up or if there was any interest in doing an Expo? Millsboro has theirs October 1st from 3 to 7 at the Millsboro Civic Center. Charlie stated that Donna has done the one in Dover and can come to the next meeting to give her input. Bobbi has gone to the Bethany Spot Light After Hours Expo. They charge for a table which will give revenue back to the Chamber. Jan has gone to the large Mortgage Expos and they highlight education with Gold and Silver sponsors. It would be nice to have speakers like Doug Harball or any other member that would be interested. Randall told Joan that if she wanted to form a committee, he would like to be on it. Joan also wanted to confirm that the chamber could still do 2 \$10 door prizes for the Mixer. Helen would like Norma to call 15 of our members to provide a door prize. She did it when she was in the office and had many drop by the prize even if they didn't attend the meeting.

Joan feels we ask a lot of our members and we have the money in the bank. Jeanne made a motion to do the 2 (\$10) door prizes by the chamber and Jan seconded. Helen confirmed that Norma will still make the calls.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Toby was honored to make the announcement that one of our own members was nominated for the Governors Volunteer of the Year and he received notice that Helen Kruger won. Helen's both daughters were in attendance to be with their mother when she heard. Toby presented the award to Helen along with the letters of recommendation and received a standing ovation by the board. Joan stated she will be receiving a letter in the mail from the Governors Office and will be invited to a dinner in October. The letter will give her more details. Also, Joan Tyndall received a round of applause also for her hard work on getting the nomination submitted for Helen.

Toby asked for the meeting to adjourn. Helen made the motion to adjourn and Jeanne seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Hartstein
Secretary