

Sodus Economic Team (SET) Meeting #6

7 February 2012

Call to Order:

Manfred Lichti called the meeting to order at 10:09 AM

Present:

Manfred Lichti, Christian Tertinek, Mary Jane Mumby, David Englert

Guest:

Carol Sergeant

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the January meeting were reviewed and after discussion were tabled until the March meeting.

Committee Updates:

Tangible Asset Committee had nothing to report

Promotion Committee reported on a meeting with Peg Churchill, Executive Director of the Wayne County Economic Development Agency.

- The biggest point to arise from that meeting was the overwhelming importance of a comprehensive list of available tangible and intangible assets. Once again, the message is to prepare for new businesses *before* a new business comes calling.
- Ms. Churchill also recommended finding volunteers to serve as “hospitality hosts” should the need arise to show potential businesses the area.
- Finally, it was suggested that SET connect with the Office of Wayne County Tourism to share resources and coordinate efforts.

New Business:

Carol Sergeant addressed SET regarding the Sodus Community Library’s formal request to be included in the Main Street Revitalization Grant. Since the Library was originally not part of the Grant Zone, inclusion now will require a formal process through the State of New York. Mary Jane Mumby explained the history of the grant and some of the reasons why the library had not been included. Discussion also followed about what types of projects qualify for the grant, the timeline for project completion, the status of current applicants, and the forecasted amount remaining in the fund. Mrs. Sergeant assured the members of SET that the Library was fully aware of all requirements and ready and able to comply should any funds remain after current applications are awarded. SET decided to support the Library’s position once all properties within the original Grant Zone be given a deadline for their applications. If any funds remain in the Grant, SET will recommend to the Chamber of Commerce that the Library be

allowed to apply. It was also strongly recommended that the Chamber begin the process to include the Library within the Grant Zone to reduce the amount of time required for paperwork.

Mary Jane Mumby reported that the Chamber of Commerce has decided to take out small advertisements in the Sun & Record and Pennysaver to promote different aspects of our community each week in 2012. Anyone with suggestions for the content of these ads should contact the Chamber.

Meeting dates and times were discussed. Some members felt that the first Tuesday of every month during business hours was limiting to the membership of SET. A thoughtful discussion ensued, with it being decided that SET would try some evening meetings, as well as daytime meetings.

Manfred reported on recent conversations with the Ontario County and Southern Tier Central Economic Development Agencies. Both agreed that communications and infrastructure should be the top priorities for any region to prosper and grow. They mentioned that state and federal grants are available to help with the installation of high-speed internet.

Old Business:

The development of organizational bylaws was discussed again. Manfred had previously sent out a sample. Some felt that they were too detailed for our needs. Team members should review and send suggestions back to Manfred. He will compile them into a single document and redistribute for further discussion.

Other operational issues were discussed:

- What constitutes a quorum?
- What manner of voting should SET employ?
- How should public notices be handled?
- Do we have the right committees seated?
- What constitutes membership?
- How can we increase/encourage membership?
- Should there be a membership fee? If so, how much?

Input is still needed on web site content.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, 12 March 2012, from 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the Sodus Community Library.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 AM