

WALDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL, INC.
Meeting Minutes, May 12, 2010
Monthly Meeting, State Farm Insurance, 155 West Main St., Walden, NY

Present:

Mary Ann Landolina
Rod Freeman
Jean Winum
Brenda Adams

The May Walden Community Council (“WCC”) meeting was hosted by State Farm Insurance. The meeting was called to order by President Mary Ann Landolina at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Mary Ann announced her move into the position of WCC President due to John Revella being hired as Walden Village Manager. It would be a conflict of interest for him to maintain the position of WCC President. Mary Ann nominated Rod Freeman to fill the position of Vice President until the next regular election. Hearing no disagreement, Brenda Adams, WCC Secretary, cast one vote and the motion carried.

Dina Bryan welcomed the WCC to the State Farm Insurance office. She has been with State Farm for fifteen years, the last two in Walden. Marion, the Office Manger has been with State Farm for twenty-five years dating back to when Sid Brundage was the local agent. State Farm has been in business since 1922 and they now own a bank. This increased the scope of their services and Dina welcomed the prospect of new customers.

Secretary’s Report:

Communications:

An e-mail message from Dona Adler reads: “Congrats to the new officers! And many thanks to the Walden community for your support of the Local Vocals Talent Show for St. John Bosco and the Orange County Trailblazers; it was a complete success! Sincerely, Dona Adler”

Sue Rumbold also sent her “Congratulations to everyone. Thanks to the Community Council for all their hard work.”

The Minutes of April 14, 2010 were accepted with the following changes: 1. Pat Eisley is not a member of the Calendar Fundraising Committee; 2 NY Main Street Grant recipient is Robert (Rob) DeGroot, not Ron DeGroot; and 3. Music in the Grove: the Jazz Pioneers is booked for July 17, not a date in August, in a motion made by Bobby Montanaro, seconded by Maria VanLeuvan and passed unanimously.

Anita Vandermark volunteered to be a member of the Calendar Fundraising Committee.

Treasurer's Report:

Jean Winum reported the following bank balances:
Regular checking account at Walden Savings Bank \$4,913.31;
Scholarship account \$592.70;
WBA account \$10; and the
Grant account \$1.

The Walden Rotary Club made a \$100 donation for Walden Veterans Memorial Park.

Jean noted the 2009 Tax Return has been filed. Gary Theodore of Nugent & Haeussler, P.C., (CPA's) identified the Grant Account as an escrow account where the dollars go in and out quickly. As long as the remaining WCC activity does not exceed the \$25,000 threshold, there will be no further tax reporting required.

Committee Reports

Village Government:

Anita Vandermark reported the highlights from the April 27th Board Meeting: a public hearing was held asking for suggestions of items to be included in the 2011 CDBG application: suggestions include Bathrooms at Olley Park, upgrade the park on Pine Street and fix the McKinley Monument; Gary Theodore, partner at Nugent and Haeussler, presented the audited report for year ending May 30, 2009, stating the Village is in good financial health; a presentation by John O'Rourke regarding the MS4 water management plan which was adopted during the meeting; Sewers are 100 years old; public comment questioned why the code enforcement officer is not active - the position is open and applications are being reviewed; a budget transfer to loan money to the sewer account was approved; Arbor Day was designated as April 29, rain date April 30; the 2010-2011 Budget was adopted with a 0.4% increase over this year; the water rate remains the same; and the sewer rate was increased.

Highlights from the May 11th Board Meeting: Village taxes were levied at \$15.2641 per \$1,000 of assessed value; Bonding for capital projects, retirement ID for Chief Brilliant and Beazer Homes Improvements were all tabled; the cost to pump out the digester was \$120,000; pest control is needed as rats are eating the generator; and there is a water problem on the Rail Trail. Public comment: Drs. Kimball, Masci and Hale spoke regarding the discontinuance of fluoride in Village Water. Dr. Kimball provided a brief history of how fluoridated water came to be in Walden (1953) and spoke positively about its affect. Drs. Masci and Hale also spoke about the benefits of fluoride and a letter from Dr. Herman was read. All the Dentists were upset that the action to discontinue fluoride was taken so quickly and none believed it would interfere with the pumps performance. The Board agreed to look into the matter further.

Community Image/PR/Website:

Rod Freeman noted a soft copy of the newsletter will be sent via e-mail and he distributed print copies. This is the last print edition. Members without a computer can get a copy at the Library. Ginny Neidermier will print copies as needed. Bobby Montanaro made a motion, seconded by Bob Jansen for State Farm Insurance to be featured in the next

newsletter at no cost. The motion carried unanimously. Anita Vandermark includes WCC news in her Walkkill Valley Times column and on Channel 23.

Beautification Committee:

Jean Winum announced the committee was preparing for the Home Flower Garden Contest. Flyers will go out early next week and judging will be on Wednesday, June 23.

Music in the Grove:

Jodi Lynn reported that the performers are almost all booked. The first concert is July 10th. Jodi needs to discuss sponsor banners with Nat Winum. It has not been decided if WCC will sell refreshments or solicit an outside vendor to come in. Rocco's was suggested as an outside vendor.

Harvest Fest:

Jodi Lynn noted the meeting last week was well attended. The Village included money for Harvest Fest in the budget. Vendor applications are coming in. The information has been sent for the Village website and Stephanie will link to it from the WCC website. An American Idol type of contest is being considered for entertainment. Mary Ann Landolina and Mayor Brian Maher will discuss it further. Oscar Alleyne is on board for Health Alley and is making arrangements for the Blood Mobile. Debbie Robb is distributing a letter for health vendors. The Health Walk will go from Municipal Square to the Lake Osiris Road crossing on the Rail Trail. It will be about three miles round trip. A sponsor for the Health Walk would be helpful. The Food Pantry will apply for a mini grant for bottled water and items for the goody bags. Mike Ciardullo will make labels with WCC, WBA and Town of Montgomery Food Pantry logos for the water. The Baking contest will be "cupcakes" and Martha Host is calling Cornell Cooperative and Crist Brothers Orchards regarding a farm vendor. Sandy Magill may have a farmer who is willing to set up. Flyers and banners are being worked on.

Meetings are the first Wednesday of every month – next: June 2, 2010, 7:00 p.m. 2nd floor Community Room.

Walden Business Association:

Stephanie Faso e-mailed the following: "WBA is doing amazingly well, after two years, we are now "mentoring" the Hamlet of Walkkill. They are trying to form an "alliance" and modeling theirs after ours - what a wonderful compliment. Our meetings have had consistent attendance and great guest speakers with one more in June before the summer holiday. Early Wednesday Mike Ciardullo and I will be meeting with Carl Aiello to finalize our "cross-marketing/special advertising" opportunity for this year. It is a special insert in the Walkkill Valley Times!!! One fundraiser and a whole new Christmas on Main Street done in cooperation with the Village Recreation Department is being planned for December 3 and 4, which will move both the tree lighting and the winter carnival to that weekend!!!

John Revella reported that twenty-five people attended the Social Media presentation. The June meeting will be at Car Tech and Rod Freeman will be making a presentation about profit growth for small businesses using the website as a primary marketing tool.

A newspaper insert “Weddings” will be in the Wallkill Valley Times for the second time ever. The first time was thirty years ago when Darleen and Mike Ciardullo was married! It will show that everything you need for a wedding can be found in Walden.

Regular meetings are the first Friday every other month – The last meeting of the season is June 4, 2010.

Scholarship Committee:

Jean Winum will be meeting with Jill Conklin Friday morning at Valley Central High School to see if any applications have been submitted. Mary Ann Landolina suggested the committee ask the Counselor to narrow the applications down if too many are submitted.

By-laws Committee:

Mary Ann Landolina and Pat Eisley have started making changes to the By-laws. They will present a draft document to the Council in a format that shows current and proposed language. The draft will be ready for the September business meeting, not in June as originally planned. Bobby Montanaro volunteered to review the draft document when it is ready.

Old Business:

Walden Veterans Memorial Park:

Bobby Montanaro reported on the Park’s progress. He acknowledged Vern Spencer for a great concrete job. The Walden Recreation Department paid one-half of the top soil and the other half was donated by J & N Excavating. Truffa Seed donated grass seed. Volunteers helping Bobby were Bobby Lynn, Jody Doherty, Eric Metzger, Andrew Frank, Mike Bliss, Logan Heaney, Greg Hornbeck and Anthony Romano. In addition, the PBA painted over the graffiti on the bridge and retaining wall. Planting will take place Sunday, May 23, 10:00 A.M. Help is needed as the ground is very hard.

Flag Day Celebration: Sunday, June 13, 2010, 1:00 p.m. at the Park

Two fundraisers are planned. The committee is looking into selling engraved pavers and there will be a Saturday night Dinner at the VFW. Details will be announced as soon as everything is put into place.

NY Main Street Grant:

John Revella reported that in 2008 the Village set aside grant funds for Main Street projects that were never disbursed. There is approximately \$46,000 that will go to the four businesses with current projects underway: Rob DeGroot, Millspaugh, Donna Hall and the Masonic Lodge. The 2010 NY Main Street Grant application has been submitted and the committee should be notified in July.

Bob Jansen noted the extremely good cooperation the Mason's received from the Walden Police Dept. while the construction vehicle was parked on Main St. Bobby Montanaro is working on the streetscape portion of the grant.

Storage Shed:

Jean Winum asked about paying Guardian Storage for the month's rent. Bobby Montanaro will find out if the bill can be prorated. WCC will be moving out of Guardian on Friday and the shelves will be completely installed in the shed by then.

Calendar Fundraiser:

Mary Ann Landolina will get to Ciardullo's Printing as soon as she gets a day off work.

New Business:

Walden's National Night Out: Event: Tuesday, August 3, 2010

Bobby Montanaro made a motion to do the bicycle raffle at the WCC booth again this year, seconded by Rod Freeman and passed unanimously. Brenda Adams will check with Stephanie Faso to see if her phone number can be used as the contact in the newspaper. The sooner bicycles are delivered to the Industrial Arts Department at the High School the better. Time is short this year.

WCC Mixer:

Bobby Montanaro made a motion to create a committee to scout out proposed locations, times available and get pricing to hold a "Mixer", seconded by Jodi Lynn and passed unanimously. It will be a social event to introduce or acquaint the WCC to businesses and residents. Bobby will chair the committee.

Comments:

A memorial service for Rod MacDonald will be held May 15, 1:00 P.M. in the Bradley Assembly Room, 3rd floor Municipal Building.

Anita Vandermark is being honored by the Walden Rotary Club for "Service Above Self" at Spruce Lodge, Thursday, May 20. See a Rotary member for tickets.

John Revella thanked the WCC for allowing him to serve on the Board.

Ginny Neidermier announced that the Brass Quintessence will perform at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on Sunday, June 6, sponsored by the Josephine-Louise Public Library.

The meeting was adjourned by a motion from Bobby Montanaro, seconded by Rod Freeman and passed unanimously at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda M. Adams
Secretary