

Germantown Economic Development Advisory Committee  
Minutes

3/26/2021 at 9am ET on Zoom

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82373591621?pwd=TFNqdBIDNzh3ZGpsS3lUUkgyaHZ3Zz09>

Committee Member Attendance: Tony Albino, Tracy Martin, Ben Davidson, Sarah Suarez, Pippa Biddle, Amy Davison

Guests: Jeanette Nesel, Katrina Sullivan, Lynn Place, LuRaye Tate, Wendy Fieser

Review minutes from last meeting (2/26/21)

Approved; Tony      Second; Tracy

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Brochure/Flyer 2.0 Update**

Process for ongoing flyer distribution

- Sarah: able to have a pile at Gaskins to be able to give to people upon request.
- Tracy: Also willing to have a stake at Ottos
- Katrina: Library would also love some at the circulation desk
- Tony: Need to have some restriction as to how many are given out to people on request so they last through the year. Maybe a set number at a time?
- Pippa: What about process of interested parties emailing [aroundgermantown@gmail.com](mailto:aroundgermantown@gmail.com), then directing them to pick up from ottos or gaskins (or library) in packs of 20 or 30 and returning there to get them when necessary.
- Jeanette: Chamber? CC Tourism?
- Tony: Has been doing that
- **Next Steps:** Tony will bring to Ottos, Gaskins, and Library so they have them to distribute

### **2. Business list update**

Update?

- Dollar General
- Dentist change
- **Next Steps:** Sarah update

### **3. GEDAC Instagram**

Update?

- Increasing posting slowly and will be promoting Yard Sale day

### **4. GEDAC Membership Changes**

Votes requested by the Town Board on the appointment of Wendy Fieser and Jeanette Nesel to GEDAC, pending April Town Board meeting.

- Pending the vote
- Will do Instagram intro for new members

## 5. Summer 2021 Events Update

Update from Sarah Suarez on the status of Summer 2021 town events

- Sarah from TB:
  - o Yard Sale is on and approved
  - o Memorial day parade approved and will likely be more procession-style like last year
  - o 4<sup>th</sup> of July is tentatively moving forward and Rob and Janet are looking into fireworks companies (previous company not available). Right now slated for the Saturday after July 4<sup>th</sup> - the 10<sup>th</sup>. Proceeding slowly.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Outdoor Movie Nights for Summer 2021

- Tracy: Pro
- Katrina: Library is working with Swank on redoing license for outdoor movies, but the catch is that who is doing the license has to host the movie on their property. They've done it successfully in their driveway.
- Amy Davison: Bad weather?
- Katrina: would have to reschedule because there isn't overhead coverage.
- Tracy: Thoughts on sound?
- Katrina: In October did one with a portable speaker and it was loud enough for all to hear.
- Ben: We have a speaker system we could lend
- Pippa: Let's look at dates
- **Next Steps:** Pippa will email Katrina re dates and movies

### 2. Town-Wide Yard Sale Update

- Pippa: Planning meeting happened! Billy is leading planning
- Sarah: Philip Sulke from Funeral home is willing to let people use the parking lot and space there, so it may be good to direct community groups that need a space to there. Potentially put Misto on the porch at Central House. Also, Alder is looking to have Emma's Pizza again in their space.
- Tracy: talking to Valley Harvest and Palatine Pizza about food stuff, in addition to Otto's offerings
- Sarah: Doing ice cream
- Talking about promoting, spreading the word, etc.
- Katrina: Have we connected with the Columbia County Chamber and tourism?
- Talking about how to list it with them.

- Sarah also shared the Wear a Mask signs with vendors
- Amy: Can we do sandwich boards of “Wear a Mask”?
- Sarah: Gaskins has a few and could probably do one!
- **Next Steps:** Tracy leading conversations with food vendors, Pippa, Sarah and Billy fielding questions and connecting people. Wear a Mask sign distribution.

### 3. CEDC Rural Business Development Grant Program in the works

*See document sent to committee with agenda titled “CC-RBDG Grant Ltr”*

- Introduced to GEDAC by Rob Beaury and something to keep on the radar as the proposal progresses as it would increase partnership between CEDC and Germantown
- Tracy: Conversations among Parks about whether GEDAC should be a 501©3 as if GEDAC and Parks were both 501©3’s we’d have a lot of fundraising and grantmaking opportunities covered.
- Sarah: Very interesting idea, but nervous about the work load that forming a 501©3 requires
- Tracy: And maybe working through the CEDC has been working for us and it makes sense to continue to do it?
- Amy: Doesn’t recall GEDAC in the past being of a different scale than we are doing now. Not certain there would be additional responsibility as a 501©3, but the difference would be if someone wanted to do fundraising.
- Sarah: Meant the workload of becoming one
- Amy: Becoming one is a challenge
- Tony: We’re forming a 501©3 for the parsonage and setting it up isn’t a big deal, but there are a lot of legal ramifications. It’s not onerous, but it gets onerous if you start raising a significant amount of money because it becomes like a little mini corporation. But rather than thinking about the work involved, let’s think about what the advantage is for us. Is there a real advantage? Perhaps we can talk to the parks commission about their experiences....also, look into educational resources we can provide to people to help businesses access external resources.
- Wendy: Berkshire Taconic (sp) is a resource as well
- Sarah: And GEDAC had talked about
- **Next Steps:** Keep in our radar. Continue the conversation. Put “business resources” in the agenda for the future, including a resource sheet and skillshare opportunities.

**Ben motions we proceed, Seconded by Tony**

### COMMENTS PERIOD/Q&A

None

### Misc./Tabled Business

- October 2021: Writing & Arts Competition 2022

Next Meeting: 9am April 30<sup>th</sup>

Motion to adjourn: Sarah Suarez ; Second: Benjamin Davidson