

Duanesburg Business Association

President
Randy Passonno

Vice President
Kevin Soucy



Treasurer
Dianne Grant

Secretary
Judy Hebert

www.DuanesburgBusinessAssociation.org

June 2, 2008 Monthly meeting minutes

Reading of last months minutes by Gus Geidel, approved by Mike Hebert, seconded by Mark Peterson
Treasurer's report by Dianne Grant, approved by Ed Greiner, seconded by Mike Hebert

New guests were introduced: Cindy Christman and Laura Gross of Duanesburg Ti Kwon Doe: New business operating out of stone church on Route 7 in center of Duanesburg. Classes are offered to children and adults. Welcome Cindy and Laura.

Guest speaker was Rene Merrihew, Town Supervisor. Rene has asked the DBA to become involved in attending zoning, planning and ad hoc committee meetings. There are 2 seats open on the regular planning board, and 2 alternate seats open on the Zoning board. If you have an interest in serving the town, please send a letter of interest to: Town of Duanesburg, 5853 Western Turnpike, Duanesburg, NY 12056. You must have an interest in the development of the town, and time to read ordinances and to take part in meetings. You can email Rene at Rmerrihew@nycap.rr.com. The planning board meets the 3rd Thursday of each month. The zoning board meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The ad hoc committee meets the 4th Tuesday of each month. Rene defended the town against a reputation of not being business friendly. She gave many examples of how quickly businesses have opened here. In the last 8 years no business has been denied from opening by the town. She said many residents will show up to oppose new business, but this is not the town's stance. She urged the DBA to attend meetings and to support new businesses applying. Rene has asked the DBA to act as an IDA in Duanesburg, thus assuming responsibility for helping businesses settle in our area. Rene wants the DBA to be advocates for new and existing businesses in Duanesburg, because Duanesburg is business friendly. The Ad Hoc committee has written a new exciting comprehensive plan with lots of room for businesses. This was done with the cooperation and help from the Schenectady County Planning Board.

The question was posed to Rene regarding sewer in Duanesburg. Rene told the group that 5 years ago a study was done. It was determined that it would cost every Duanesburg resident \$1,800 per year. It was decided that the cost could not be absorbed by most of the elderly residents and therefore would not be approved. Rene said since 9/11 there hasn't been any funding for such a project. There is 500k available to the town, but this would be "a drop in a bucket". She said the Metroplex is an economic development agency that the tax payers fund ½ of 1% for all monies given to businesses.

George Amedore was a surprise guest. He told the group that Duanesburg is lucky to have Rene. He said Rene has the community and the residents at the center of decisions, she provides great leadership, and George thanked Rene. Mr. Amedore is very concerned with high property taxes. He said he had just completed a conference call with Tom Swazey who has just finished studying a proposed tax cap in Upstate New York. This report will be released soon. Schenectady is in the top 10 for the highest property tax rates. Education is one of the most costly; 18k per pupil yet he said the state funds the least. He said that we are experiencing a 6 - 9% per year hike in property taxes. "There is a crisis. We can't afford anymore." Said George. He said the governments of the past have allowed this situation to happen. 62% of property taxes goes to schools. George told the group the solution may be to cap property taxes like 16 other states have done and been very successful. He believes this will put us on the right course using discipline and control. He said the unfunded mandates must stop, and he would like a tier 5 cap on state hiring. He said the biggest opponent of this cap proposal is the teachers union. "Our seniors can't afford it (higher property taxes)". Mr. Amedore said that Duanesburg lacks populous, therefore we are not getting county money that we would otherwise. He said we have great potential with I-88 and a toll free exit of the thru way. He believes that Metroplex is a good thing for Schenectady County but that money needs to be dispensed outside of the city. He said he is trying to take the politics out of Metroplex which at this time members are able to write checks with no accountability. "We (Duanesburg) should benefit" he said. "Metroplex should be a working capital fund for small businesses so they can invest in the hard working men and women who build the tax base in our communities" he said. He wants to put an end to Metroplex making large investments to companies who then are given big tax breaks that last for years. He said Metroplex needs to look at small businesses and give tax credits for hiring and training and retaining it's citizens. "We can all make Schenectady County and Duanesburg a more affordable place" Amedore concluded.

Ralph Musella of BancCard talked about the convenience for customers and businesses to accept credit cards. There is a 1.5% cost to process debit cards, and a 2 ½% fee to process credit cards. NBT and SEFCU are associated with BancCard. Ralph told the group in the last 6 months, 12 new businesses have signed up to use his company.

Natalie Lenahan reported to the group that she had recently met with Ray Gillen of Metroplex. She reports that Metroplex is expanding its money to county wide and they will look at Duaneburg. 100k has already put in Duaneburg's general fund.

Committee Reports: No committees reported

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Proposed Projects: None

Announcements: Next meeting: July 7th, 6:30pm at Jonathans

Motion to Adjourn: Approved by Dianne Grant, seconded by Mike Hebert

Business and Community United Together

Post Office Box 37
Duanesburg, New York 12056

(518) 895-8150 x 102