

Economic Development Committee Update

June 11, 2018

1. Received second bid for accent lighting along Market Street and Main Street and for Town Hall. Evaluating bids with Jesse to ensure they meet the towns needs.
2. Planning for the 2018 Fabulous Fourth Fridays is continuing. Bands have been obtained for all dates; Food vendors have been setup for June, August and September. Still looking for July as most food vendors are working the fair; Additional signage is in progress; Vendor signup is continuing, signups have been slow but we hope for a late uptick in registrations. Still working on ensuring insurance coverage will be in place if beer and wine will be sold.
3. The Bike Trail naming contest was held on May 19th. Rain caused the attendance to be low but we did have some people there. T.S. Smith donated some of their great donuts and we had tea and lemonade. Donna Ray of Bridgeville won the prize for the winning name and we were able to present her with a gift basket of local business prizes/coupons worth \$200. Announcement and picture were sent to the Star and thank you letters delivered to participating businesses. Thanks to committee members Sue Grenier and Donna Moore for handling this event.
4. Worked with the Eastern Shore Tourism, Arts and Downtown Development (TADD) to have their website updated with Bridgeville information.
5. Attended the Western Sussex Business & Economic Development Forum on May 10, 2018.
6. The EDC committee voted to accept a bid for two branded town entrance signs. After meeting with the commission, requested suggestions from the sign maker for a replacement image but they haven't come up with anything yet. In the meantime I also contacted state planners for their input. Discussed with them the idea of dropping the rocking chair image off the town entrance signs. They were in agreement that at this time, dropping the image from the sign was the best solution. In part they said "..... I would be very comfortable dropping it and not trying to find a replacement. I think the use of color and typeface are more than enough to make the connection!"
7. Weathered Treasures asked the chair if any grants were available at this time that they could use. After discussions with the committee it was decided that other than the current accent lighting grants, there were no other grants approved. The committee agreed that a block of grant money should be set aside for these types of requests and will be setting that up for the new budget year.
8. The EDC agreed that it would help sponsor a welcome center at the Church Mouse to see how that works.

Richard Grinnell

Chairperson, Economic Development Committee