

**Minutes of Village of Lancaster Community Development Corporation**  
**Meeting Date March 6th, 2019**

**Attendees:** Jim Allein, John Chmarney, Robert Lawrence, John Mikoley, Bill Schroeder, Tommy Sweeney

**Absent:** Shannon McNichol, Dawn Robinson

**Gallery:** Lynn Ruda, Richard Groblewski

Jim A. opened the meeting at 4:00PM

Presentation from Richard Groblewski regarding "Landscaping Lancaster". Discussion regarding how this would fit into the future of the CDC. Agreed that this would be placed on the April agenda.

**Minutes:** John M. made a motion to approve the minutes from February 6th, 2019. Seconded by Bill S. and unanimously approved

Jim A. made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 25th, 2019 special meeting. Seconded by John C. and unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report:**

No treasurer's report this month

**Affirmation of \$2,000 donation for Thursday in the Village**

Jim A. discussed the conditions that were outlined at the merchants meeting.

Joseph Ligammare from TechNet task group presented the CDC with details regarding the merchant organization in the Village. Joe discussed the lack of a formal structure with the merchants group and stated that he felt the mission statement of the CDC could be a fit with the merchants association. The group had a lengthy discussion regarding the current state of the merchant group and the role of the CDC.

Tommy S. discussed the 1998 revitalization plan. Difficult for us to achieve objectives without a community space in the area and "Main Street Manager" position to plan and organize. Unsure of how to fund the position. Is there any option to have a main street manager who can help. Bob D. mentioned a state organization who is out there and helped to fund a position in Tonawanda. Jim A. suggested that, as a 501c3, we might not be eligible for those funds.

Bill S. discussed the role of Jeff Stribbing prior to his passing. Jeff S. was on the Village board and was made economic development director. The Village covered the cost of his health insurance. Bob D. suggested that a model similar to the role that Jeff S. filled could be the model.

John C. suggested that the merchants provide a list of areas where funding is needed and to bring that to the CDC so that we can react to the proposal. Tommy S. suggested that we require that the merchants nominate or elect a leader to represent the group. Joe L. reiterated the need for an organization structure and accountability. Joe agreed that he will get back to Jim A.

Bill S. discussed some of the past Village events and how much activity, along with a variety of activity created for the Village.

Bill S. made a motion to affirm funding \$2,000 toward the cost of Thursday's in the Village, seconded by Bob L. and unanimously approved.

**Chamber Report:**

John C. is no longer with the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce. There was a brief discussion regarding John C. leaving the Chamber. Jim A. brought up our records that are kept at the Chamber. It was agreed that Jim A. would collect the records, checks, and computer from the Chamber office. We will still use the same mailing address and Tommy S. will receive any items for the CDC at his office within the building. John C. offered to work with Joe L. to put together options for the CDC and merchants.

**Additional Business:**

Tommy S. proposed an idea that he called the "Lancaster Bean". Similar to the Chicago Bean or "Shark Girl" at Canalside. He mentioned that it must be safe, interactive, large in scale, and tied to the history of Lancaster. With the history of railroads in the area, Tommy discussed the possibility of the caboose from Niagara Hobby that was once located in the Village of Lancaster. A foundation sponsor for the cost was discussed. Tommy S. also mentioned a meeting with the Griffis Sculpture Park regarding bringing a sculpture to the area.

At 5:30 pm Jim A. made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bob L. and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Lawrence