

TUXEDO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Town Hall Community Room

July 20, 2005

MINUTES

**In Attendance:**

Members:

Dale Mottola, Applied Systems Group  
Scott Lesko, Augusta Properties, Inc  
Geraldine Mahoney, Bank of NY  
Gregory Stevens, Gregory Stevens Financial Services  
Jerry Mottola, Jerico/U.S.P.S.  
Hao Li Ee, Path Computer Systems  
Greg Duffy, Sterling Portfolio Management  
Daniel Carlin, Town of Tuxedo Police  
Christian Sonne, Tuxedo Park Affiliates Realty  
Katherine Norris, Tuxedo Park Estates  
Robert Thompson, Tuxedo Park Preferred Properties  
Jim Burger, Tuxedo Park School  
Andy Berish, Tuxedo Silver Dollars  
Aubrey deBordenave, WJB Villas Corp.

Others Present:

Francine Rauch, Town of Tuxedo Town Board Member  
Gina Marie Miele, Recording Secretary

Scott Lesko, President, called the regular monthly meeting of the Tuxedo Chamber of Commerce to order at 5:40 PM on Wednesday, July 20, 2005.

**DISCUSSION ON COMMUNITY SURVEY and TOWN REVITALIZATION:** Mr. Duffy began the discussion by showing the PowerPoint presentation bullet points, indicating that the Survey was conducted in the fall of 2004 to capture the residents' attitudes toward Tuxedo businesses, government, municipal services, schools, recreation and development. The survey indicated 70% of respondents were very dissatisfied with local business; they showed strong satisfaction with the Highway and Police services.

**Councilwoman Fran Rauch** was asked for her comments. Ms. Rauch has been on the Town Board for 9 ½ years. She said that the Hamlet Revitalization Plan, adopted by the Tuxedo Town Board 3 ½ years ago, is simply a set of guidelines. She said there is no question that the efforts the Chamber has put forth are extremely valuable and are on the same track as those of the Town Board. The fact that Tuxedo is fragmented into 5 or 6 separate communities presents a unique challenge. How can we unify the Town, yet keep the individuality of the distinct communities? How can a desirable downtown gathering place be created? The Farmer's Market has been a great start for community unification.

Councilwoman Rauch was asked about the status of the Local Development Corp. (LDC). She advised that Tuxedo Reserve has earmarked a two million dollar revolving loan, which will be administrated by the LDC. Ms. Mottola specifically requested that a Chamber member be allowed to sit on the LDC; Ms. Rauch said at present she was unsure how it will be organized, but at the very least the Chamber would act as an advisory committee to the LDC, which they hope to have operational within 60 days. Mr. Lesko said that it is essential the Chamber be a part of the LDC. Mr. Duffy remarked that the LDC will also affect Zoning changes, and the Chamber wants to be involved to weigh in on such important decisions. Mr. Burger agreed, and discussed how a new vitality and new voices with a proactive, not reactive, view could be very significant. The LDC was discussed at great length.

Ms. Rauch also said she was very disappointed by the fact that the Town has been bypassed for a Grant for the Historic Preservation of the train station. She advised that it would take an estimated \$700,000. for the renovation, and grants should still be pursued. It is the centerpiece of Tuxedo, and could be put to good use. She also said that the Town was given an extension for the Riverwalk/Powerhouse Project Grant. The application for this Grant was initiated 4 years ago and amounts to \$320,000. Discussion ensued.

Several Chamber members felt disappointed that the entire Town Board was invited to this meeting, and only one came. As to what the next step should be, Chief Carlin said to consider that there would be essentially a new Town Board in January. There is the possibility of inviting those who are running for office to the next Chamber meeting to exchange views.

**FAMILY FUN DAY:** This year's Tuxedo Family Fun Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 1, 2005, with a rain date of October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ms. Mottola made a motion to Co-Sponsor the event again with the Town of Tuxedo. Ms. deBordenave seconded the motion; it passed unanimously. Mr. Lesko asked for feedback and ideas at the next meeting to make the event a success.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.