

TUXEDO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Town Hall Community Room

May 25, 2005

MINUTES

In Attendance:

Members:

Noel Jablonski, Angelheart Antiques
Dale Mottola , Applied Systems Group
Scott Lesko, Augusta Properties, Inc
Kerriann Cavada, Color Schemes Painting
Pam Graetzer, Graetzer Communications Corp.
Gregory Stevens, Gregory G. Stevens, Inc.
Jerry Mottola, Jerico/U.S.P.S.
Bill McMullen, McMullen's Tavern
Hao Li Ee, Path Computer Systems
Jim Gell, Sterling Forest State Park
Greg Duffy, Sterling Portfolio Management
Daniel Carlin, Town of Tuxedo Police
Christian Sonne, TPA Realty
Robert Thompson, Tuxedo Park Preferred Properties
Jim Burger, Tuxedo Park School
Aubrey deBordenave, WJB Villa Corp.

Others Present:

Craig Newell, Path Computer Systems
Jean Marie Hitchen, Tuxedo Park Preferred Properties
Francine Rauch, Town of Tuxedo Councilperson
Pat Claiborne, Cornell Cooperative Extension
Kathy Kimiecik, Orange Arts/Orange County Tourism
Blaine Yatabe, Orange County Dept. of Planning
Gina Marie Miele, Recording Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Tuxedo Chamber of Commerce was called to order at 5:40 PM on Wednesday, May 25, 2005, by Scott Lesko, President.

UPDATE ON TUXEDO FARMERS MARKET: The fundraiser held on May 21, 2005 at McMullen's Tavern was a huge success. There were 75 attendees, raising a profit of \$2,375. In addition, a phone solicitation raised \$2,000. Mr. Lesko stated that the funds from the vendor applications and space fees will soon be added as well.

MAIN STREET REVITALIZATION: A slide presentation was given by Tim Cullenen of *Cornell Cooperative Extension* and the *Community and Rural Development Institute*. Mr. Cullenen first asked for background from Chamber Members. Mr. Duffy commented that

Tuxedo is on the threshold of major development, and the challenge will be how to grow while maintaining the small town qualities that the community likes. Ms. Graetzer added that the town lacks a central main street for people to gather.

Ms. Rauch explained that a Tuxedo Revitalization plan was adopted last year, and that the original study commissioned offered very significant information. The Special Permit for Tuxedo Reserve includes two million dollars for revitalization of downtown Tuxedo. She said the Town is eager to work together with the Chamber to make a plan, set priorities and collectively seek additional funds.

Mr. Cullenen's program showed that a town's "Main Street" is a symbol of community economic health, local quality of life, pride and community history; it provides an important civic forum where community members can congregate. He presented a comprehensive approach to downtown revitalization:

1. Design
2. Promotion
3. Organization
4. Economic Restructuring

He showed examples of downtown improvements in other New York communities such as Kingston and Lake Placid. He outlined ways in which a vision for the future, strategies for retail growth, improving planning dynamics and preparing for economic renewal can all be realized. He recommended obtaining additional information from resources such as: www.nymssa.org, www.cdtoolbox.org, www.cardi.cornell.edu.

It was decided that there would be a workshop for followup discussion at the June Chamber meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.