

Minutes for Arlington BID Meeting
February 28, 2024

Attendance: Lt. Patrick Berry, Ross Hardisty, Bob Legacy, Rhianna Mirabello, Michelle Morrill, Danny Petrizzo, Jacob Reckess, Ann Shershin, Bryan Swarthout, and Jon Vincitore

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m.

Minutes: Minutes from the January meeting were read and corrected. The correction was that the decision as to when to hold the Arlington Street Fair was tabled until the formation of the event committee had been completed. Bryan Swarthout made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected, Rhianna Mirabello seconded the motion, and it passed with a vote of 9 to 0.

Economic Summit: We have been asked to get the word out about the Economic Development Forum. RSVP responses are coming in. Steven Tinkleman has asked to speak about his projects in the Arlington Town Center. We discussed expanding the BID's tax base to include Tinkleman's project. The Economic Development Forum will be on March 15 from 7:00 to 9:00 am at Vassar Alumina House.

Farmer's Market: The information about the farmers' market needs to be updated on the BID's website. The farm market is planned to return to the Alumina Lawn this summer. Vendors can wrap around in front of the Institute building if need be.

Street Fair: A resolution was emailed to the board on January 31 asking to hold the Arlington Street Fair on the third Saturday in September, September 21. The resolution passed with 8 aye votes. We discussed whether cannabis vendors would be allowed at the Street Fair. We need to investigate this question further. We discussed the types of vendors we would like to have at the Street Fair such as upscale vendors and maker vendors. Food trucks are required to be inspected and licensed by the Town. We can reach out to the Make a Wish Foundation to be included as a sponsor of the fair and have a booth there.

Event Committee: We discussed what events the BID should host. There was discussion of setting a time and date to have a meeting to only discuss events or have events as the only topic of our next meeting. We discussed advertising for a farm market manager. Some interest was expressed in having several smaller events like Eastdale and Beacon does instead of the Street Fair. We are considering inviting Michelle Barone Lepore, a marketing consultant who was responsible for the increase in participation in the City of Poughkeepsie's First Friday, to come to our next meeting. We could also visit Beacon and Eastdale and research what they do. More smaller events may be easier to manage and would keep Arlington on the public's mind. We need to promote name recognition of the Arlington BID. More information could be put into the kiosk.

Vassar: The Inn and restaurant will be opening in July or early August. Breaking ground on the new admission and career building will begin this year. Vassar will be adding pickle ball courts.

Litter Pick Up: We discussed sending a letter to the owners explaining their responsible to pick up the trash on their property and to maintain their landscaping.

Demonstrations: Demonstrations have occurred in the Arlington area. Vassar College has advised while the students are allowed to demonstrate, they need to do so with respect for others. Demonstration can not block sidewalks or the roads.

Meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.
Minutes submitted by Ann Shershin