

RCS CBA Comments to Town of Coeymans Board

Thursday, April 11, 2019

Presented by Vice Chair Aaron Flach

Good evening. My name is Aaron Flach and I'm a local business owner. I'm also the Vice Chair of the RCS Community Business Association.

In January the Town and Village hosted a meeting to discuss the development of a joint comprehensive plan. Many Business Association members attended this event and were excited by the prospect of our Town and Village working together to create common goals and a vision for the future of Ravena and the Town of Coeymans.

I'm here today on behalf the business community to encourage the Town to follow through on this planning process. We desire the Town to devote the human and fiscal resources needed to bring such a plan to fruition. In the end we hope the outcome will provide a road map for well thought out economic development for the community.

Furthermore, as part of the new, joint comprehensive plan we hope the Town, in conjunction with the Village, will hire an economic development coordinator who can take the new plan and bring it to life. We understand your Town Board responsibilities are part-time and you have other jobs. The same is true for the group of professionals running the Business Association. What we need is an experienced person whose job is to leverage local, state and federal resources and promote our wonderful Town and Village to potential businesses that will create jobs and build our tax base in a way that's in keeping with the comprehensive plan.

I understand this is huge undertaking and there are many questions to be answered. How would the Town and Village afford to do this? Who would be in charge of developing the plan? And so on. The Business Association doesn't have all the answers either. What we're seeking tonight is a commitment from this body to engage in further discussion about the possibility of joint planning with the Village, RCS CBA and any other interested parties. We're thankful you are allowing John Cashin, Building Inspector and Code Enforcement Officer, to participate on our Economic Development Advisory Committee, but we are asking for an additional pledge tonight.

I realize the Town and Village currently have separate plans. The Town's is a decade old and I understand you are working to update it. However, we firmly believe the Town and Village must work in unison to make any plan successful because you share many resources.

The Business Association knows you have the best interests of the Town of Coeymans at heart. If there's one thing the Town and Village should be able to agree on then, it's economic development for our community. You can count on the support of the RCS Community Business Association. We look forward to meeting with you soon to discuss the ideas presented here more thoroughly.

Thank you.