

Meeting Minutes

<p>Name of Group: RCS Community Business Association Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)</p>	<p>Members in Attendance: Brian Bailey, RCS School District Dan Baker, Town of Coeymans Linda Bruno, STARS Intergeren Corp. John Cashin, Code Enforcement Aaron Flach (Committee Chair), RCS CBA Member Rebecca Flach, RCS CBA Member Glenn Lasher, Retired Business Owner Linda Muller, Village Trustee Marlene McTigue, Albany County IDA and RCS CBA Linda Muller, Village Trustee Mary Ellen Rosato, Village Trustee Nancy Warner, Village Trustee</p> <p>Absent: Kathi Palmer, Business Owner</p>
<p>Mission of EDAC: <i>To provide advisement and concepts to local leaders and act as a conduit of communication among businesses, industry, and our municipalities.</i></p> <p>Goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Help the village and town secure a comprehensive plan for economic development. Hire a professional to bring plan to fruition.2. Assist and advise the municipalities on the revision of their codes.3. To act as an active conduit for municipalities to communicate and collaborate with businesses.	

Agenda Item/ Objective	Discussion	Action Required	Person Responsible	Completion Date/Report Back Date
Introductions	Members introduced themselves, described their affiliation.			
Rationale for comprehensive planning	<p>Aaron Flach led discussion around the concept that the Town and Village are the same community, made of the same people. It would be very beneficial for us to have a joint comprehensive plan and an economic development professional to bring that plan to fruition.</p> <p>A shared plan would allow both municipalities to look at shared priorities. The committee discussed the role of this project would be to determine the highest priorities and not to undermine any municipal code or zoning.</p> <p>Liabilities identified during public comment for the Town’s 2006 plan include: 1. Poor physical appearance of community, lack of code enforcement. 2. Poor self-perception of townspeople 3. Lack of Planning/Vision 4. Lack of cooperation between Village and Town. Several committee members commented that these same issues exist 13 years later and it’s time to try a new approach.</p> <p>A large added bonus of joint planning is greater ability to secure grants.</p> <p>Development is occurring in communities around us. It is, in part, due to economic development plans and professionals who are making plans reality.</p> <p>Development is occurring in RCS and we need to celebrate it.</p> <p>Companies such as Elan Planning & Design can assist with the creation of comprehensive plan; they build the cost of their work into grant applications.</p>			

Brainstorming. What questions do we need answered to move forward?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An approximate cost for a consultant (Economic Development Professional). 2. Would consultant be an independent contractor or employee? 3. Will both municipalities participate in the creation of the comprehensive plan? Can existing plans be merged? 4. Could Town and Village borrow money from other budget lines in 2019 to contribute to comprehensive planning beginning this FY? 5. Is the Town going back to the same firm who created its 2006 plan to update it? 6. Get examples of municipalities that worked together to create a comp plan. 			
Create Action Plan		<p>Seek answers to questions 1-6 outlined in Brainstorming.</p> <p>Ask consultants to attend our next meeting to determine what he/she will need from us and what we will need of him/her (i.e. Liz Staubach, Lisa Nagle).</p>	Rebecca Flach	May 2019, reporting at our next meeting.
Dates/Times for Future Meetings	TBD – based on the availability of the potential consultants – sometime in the next month ideally			TBD

Pertinent Notes from Previous Meeting(s):

From March 2019 meeting:

1. Town and Village should collaborate and engage a professional master planner and/or grant writer.
2. (long term) It may be advantageous for both entities to re-examine their codes to ensure that they are welcoming to new businesses, new homeowners, and support successful and struggling current residents. They do not need to be the same codes; they need to be welcoming codes.
3. There needs to be a formal liaison to work with the Village and Town to ensure positive communication and focused work on shared causes.