

Kutztown Community Partnership

DBA Northeast Berks Main Street Foundation

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345 West Main Street
Kutztown Pa 19530
Ph: (484) 646-9069

Business Outreach Meeting
Kutztown Tavern, Meeting Room
March 12th 2009
6:30 pm

Amy Bray, Presiding

Call to Order:

Amy Bray

Discussion Points:

Electric

Letter of Petition to the Finance, Electric and Telecommunications committee already signed by most of the business community, to be signed by everyone at the meeting tonight and will be presented by John Scott at the next committee meeting, Monday, March 16th 2009, 8:00 am.

We will also be asking the new borough manager for a meeting with a few of the local business owners and we will invite him to our next group meeting.

We will be also asking for financial statements for 2008 and 2009.

76 signatures on the letter so far, we need to keep the ball rolling and keep the communication going. Kim also noted that the same core group of people has been advocating for these causes for the past 10 years.

It is great that more people are getting involved now! Keep Going!

Borough we need help! There is a communication problem between council and the town / business community.

There was discussion on a electric rate freeze and the letter sent out last year did stat that the borough would no get an rate increase for multiple years to come.

De-regulation does have a very important role in this topic.

There also was a note that the borough has become used to the budget being able to count on the surplus (profit) from the revenue the electric company has been able to bring in over the years.

If we determine we would like to see a rate decrease for commercial electric users where would the borough get the revenue to replace the electric company's profits.

It was also noted that we should have and could have voiced our opinions in the beginning and we need to be more diligent in informing each other about borough decisions that are going to affect our bottom line and our community.

There is an organization in PA that is going to congress with the intent of getting rid of de-regulation, everyone is encouraged to visit their web site and print out a letter to their congress person.

A suggestion was made that the surplus electric revenue be reserved for Main Street (designated area) revitalization and the business community.

Parking

The Mayor asked for more suggestions and solutions.
The Meters and Parking lines were brought up again.

Street Lights

Street lights are a priority and they need to be finished.
We are shovel ready for more grants and funding.
We should not do one light at a time we should do a whole block at once.
The reason the lights were started at the top of Main Street and only 25 lights were installed was because:

1. The state grant money ran out .
2. It took five years for the first street light project to get approved and it would take to much more time to change the project so that the street lights could have started in the middle of Main Street.

Bottom line we need more funding to continue the street light project.

General News

The borough will accept a new Chief of Police on Tuesday, March 17th 2009, 7:30 pm at the borough council meeting.

Customer & Business Friendly Town

Please come to next meeting with suggestions for a “brand” for our town.

Next Steps

At the next meeting we will come up with a 6 month plan for the topics discussed in the last two meetings.

Next Meeting:

To be decided.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.