

Waldwick Chamber of Commerce

General Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2023

Business Conducted:

A meeting was held at The Waldwick Public Library

In Attendance: Stan Kowalski, Julie Pignatelli, Karen Livanos Centauro, Heidi Gross, Dave Barthold, Chuck Farricker, Nancy Aleman, Tara Pette, Giuseppe Cascio, Rocco Palaia, Alan Batista, Smindhya Swamithan, Nick Stratton, Tom Giordano, Jim Zumbano, Neha Garcia, Christine Figliuolo, Natalia Arciszewski., George Reskakis.

- Welcome and Happy New Year to all.
- Mayor Tom Giordano gave borough update – Their reorganization meeting was recently held. A thank you to all businesses in town, old and new for hanging in the past few years that have been tough for everyone. The borough is there if anyone needs assistance. Ted Bell Project was done updating the park. The borough has supported the school project taking place and decided to waive all fees. They moved all polling stations out of the schools and into other locations. The police department was reinsulated. The parking lot project by M&T Bank has been completed allowing for more municipal parking. There is a study being done in the downtown train station area. There has been geese patrol in Borough Park. There is a traffic study taking place regarding residents wanting to close access to Route 17. A new street was created named Everson. All new streets in the borough are named after Civil War Veterans. The tree lighting took place in Borough Park this past Christmas and was well received by all. Thank you to the Chamber for decorating the clock tower area for the holidays. Policy Academy was held again and the first Warrior Night was a success. The town is receiving a \$75,000 grant from the state and a \$50,000 grant from PSE&G and electric car chargers will be installed at the borough parking lot. The fire department received a grant for \$28,000 that they will use for new equipment. The house decorating contest took place. Council meeting for Budget. Water treatment is continuing. It is a \$3 million project that will be done. A path in Brookview Park will be done with open space money. A town reevaluation will take place which is governed by the state. Eight concerts are schedule for this year. Trunk or treat, tree lighting and veteran banners scheduled for this year. Lions Park has received open space money for improvements. Renting of property fees will be reconstructed. There is a new deputy clerk and finance department employee. Borough Hall is being worked on due to a problem that occurred with the sprinkler system. Lots of events will take place in the new year.
- There was a board meeting held on 1/10/23.
- The Chamber hosted two networking events last year, the 5K, the community garden, four grand openings.
- Christine Figliuolo was a judge for the DECA program. The kids were great and very eager to participate. The venue was not the best. The kids are part of time during the pandemic when they have lost touch with communicating. They definitely need to learn basic skills such as eye contact and hand shaking. They were very thankful for the input and the Chamber would like to be more involved with student activities.
- Membership renewal is 3/31/23 \$120 and \$60 for non-profits.
- Giuseppe Cascio gave a financial report. There is approx. \$51,000. There is money that was set aside into a CD and the balance is operating account and events account. The chambers expenses total approx. \$8,000 - \$9,000 per year and are usually covered by membership and race donations.
- Paul Karoyan has submitted his resignation as a board member. Neha Garcia was nominated to take over his spot.

- The Village Grille closed and was bought by a local family. We wish Bobby and his family all the best and thank him for his support to the chamber over the years. We wish the new owners' success and hope they will be a part of the chamber.
- Dean Brown has left the Bristol to take on another job out of state. We wish him well.
- Michele Calise, former chamber president has retired from Valley Bank. We wish her congratulations and thank her for all her contributions over the years.
- Lakeland Bank and Provident bank are in the process of merging.
- There are three new businesses coming to town, A2Z eyecare, Abe & Company Jewelers and Perusia Pizzeria.
- The board voted on hiring Avios Media to revamp and run the two active websites.
- The board voted to subscribe to Quickbooks in order to better serve and manage the chamber's finances.
- New committees will be formed this year in order to streamline the work that the members take on.
- The scholarship committee will now give 4 scholarships to Waldwick students and 1 scholarship to a Northern Highlands student. The amounts have been increased to \$750. This was voted on at the board meeting. Scholarships will be heavily based on community service and contributions to annual 5k.
- The chamber will be subscribing to Wild Apricot, a software program that can track membership. This along with the new committee for membership will help manage the work that goes into membership each year.
- We are always in need of Guest speakers at our monthly meetings. SCORE has expressed interest in speaking.
- Julie Pignatelli reminded all members on social media to remember to tag the chamber in their posts so that we may share to all of our followers to help promote their businesses.
- We will continue to do featured member of the month. Anyone interested should contact the chamber to be featured.
- The chamber will continue to do networking events at various locations throughout the year.
- The annual 5K will take place on May 7. The next meeting for the 5k will be on 1/30 at Matthews Diner at 8:30 am. New challenge coins will be discussed for this year's 15th annual race. The race donated \$25,133.36 to various organizations last year.
- The Allendale/Saddle River rotary is hosting an event at The Brick House on 3/2/23. Autumn Years Magazine is holding their annual event at Crestwood Lake in Allendale on 5/24/22. Tables for vendors are \$345. This is a free event for seniors. The Ramsey Chamber of Commerce Winter social is 1/25/23 from 6-9 pm at the Knights of Columbus. Cocktails and catered by Uncle Giuseppe's. Tickets are \$25 for members, \$35 for non members on Eventbrite.
- Nominations were made for the new board as follows.
 - Stan Kowalski – President
 - Julie Pignatelli and Dave Barthold – Co Vice Presidents
 - Giuseppe Cascio – Treasurer
 - Secretary – Mary Beth Nappi
 - Board Members will remain the same with the addition of Neha Garcia who will finish out term for Paul Karoyan and then continue for 2023.
 - All were in favor and voting will take place at the next general meeting.
- The next general meeting will be held on February 15 at 8:30 am at the Waldwick Public Library

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Julie Pignatelli

Vice President