

Waldwick Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

Date: April 17, 2024

Time: 8:30 am

Location: Waldwick Library

Agenda:

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Chamber Updates
3. Upcoming Events
4. Good Deeds by Chamber Members
5. On the Horizon
6. Business Resources
7. Next Chamber Meeting

Meeting Proceedings:

1. Welcome & Introductions:

- Stan Kowalski, President & W5K Race Director, opened the meeting and introduced Mayor Tom Giordano.

2. Chamber Updates:

- Motion passed to accept minutes from March 20th meeting.
- Mayor Giordano provided updates on budget approvals, tax expectations, recent town purchases, and ongoing town initiatives.
- Current Chamber membership stands at 102, with 83 businesses and 19 non-profits.
- Reminder issued for April 1st renewal deadline; members encouraged to renew online.
- New Chamber members welcomed: Reflection Studio, Matthews Colonial Diner, Christian Health, Philly Pretzel Factory.
- Kelly Tanis, President of Wyckoff Chamber of Commerce, welcomed as a guest.
- Curtis Springstead from SCORE introduced, offering support for historical train society railroad tower in Waldwick.

3. Upcoming Events:

- Highlighted upcoming events, including Waldwick Library Tour of Duty, Gearblock Brewing 2nd Anniversary party, Vintage & Antique Show at The Hermitage, and more.
- Attendees encouraged to check weekly Chamber newsletter for additional events.

4. Good Deeds by Chamber Members:

- Recognized Bombay Hut fundraiser for Waldwick baseball, contributing \$500.

5. On the Horizon:

- Discussion on summer Scavenger Hunt Contest with local businesses.
- Updates provided on the Waldwick 5K Run, scheduled for May 5, 2024, with Cinco de Mayo theme.

- Noted donations from 2023 and 2024 W5K Runs.

6. Business Resources:

- Highlighted SCORE and New Jersey Business Action Center as valuable resources.
- Highlighted CHORE for Volunteers

7. Next Chamber Meeting:

- Scheduled for May 15, 2024, at Waldwick Library, 8:30 am.

Additional Notes from Attendees:

- Various attendees provided updates and announcements related to community events, fundraisers, and initiatives. See Notes.
- Mentioned events included sponsorships, fundraisers, chamber-sponsored programs, and collaborations with other organizations.
- **Attendees:** Stan Kowalski; Mary Beth Nappi; Ernesto Enriquez, Melissa Yerger, Chip Yerger, Jennifer Miano, George Reskakis, Kelly Tanis, Brian Mackey, Julie Pignatelli, Neha Garcia, Carol Cultita, Mayor Tom Giordano, Cristyn Madley, Trevor Raimundo, Dave Barthold, Tracey Infield, Jeanne Patrician, Chuck Farricker, Nick Stratton, Michael Glickman, Lori Quinn, Barbara Hand, Natalia Arciszewski, Jim Zumbano, Christine Figiuolo, Antonia Romano, Ed Cohen, Giuseppe Casio

For more information, visit www.thewaldwickchamber.com or contact info@waldwickchamber.com.

Agenda: "Supporting the business community is what we're about" General Meeting –April 17, 2024 @ 8:30am
Waldwick Library Welcome & Introductions – Stan Kowalski- President & W5K Race Director Chamber Updates:

- Motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept the minutes from March 20th Chamber meeting Brian & Giueseppe
- Mayor Giordano Waldwick Borough updates
- Current Chamber membership (102) 83/19 Non-profit & Chamber renewals were due on April 1st. Please renew membership online
- Welcome our newest Chamber members Reflection Studio, Matthews Colonial Diner, Christian Health, Philly Pretzel Factory • Welcome Kelly Tanis President Wyckoff Chamber of Commerce • Welcome Curtis Springstead SCORE Support for the historical train society railroad tower in Waldwick
- Upcoming events: • April 25th Waldwick Library Tour of Duty • April 27th -28th Gearblock Brewing 2nd year Anniversary party weekend • April 28th Vintage & Antique Show The Hermitage • May 5th Waldwick Chamber of Commerce 5K Run & 1 Mile Walk • May 11th Victorian Afternoon Tea The Hermitage • May 14th Ridgewood AM Rotary fundraiser Wine & Spirit Tasting at West Bergen Mental Health 1 Cherry Lane, Ramsey, NJ • May 18th Gong & Sound Bath Angry Orchard Cider House • May 22nd Autumn Years 10-year Anniversary Expo Crestwood Lake
- Please check our weekly Chamber newsletter for upcoming events Good Deeds Chamber Members: Bombay Hut fundraiser for Waldwick baseball \$500
- Jennifer & Tracey Updated us on the summer Scavenger Hunt Contest with local businesses
- Waldwick 5K Run -The 16th Annual W5K Run May 5, 2024 Cinco de Mayo theme (18 days) • 296 runners 52 walkers registered (348) • Volunteer opportunities are available Register at <https://thewaldwickchamberofcommerce.com/waldwick-5k/>; W5K Run committee meetings April 22nd & April 29th. 2023 donations from W5K Run \$36,200 (40 organizations) • 2024 donations for W5K Run \$2,100 (73 generous donors)
- Next Chamber Meeting: May 15, 2024 Waldwick Library 8:30am Note: Please contact us if you have any promotions or events scheduled for your business or organization.
- Stan Kowalski opened the meeting and introduced Mayor Tom Giordano . Mayor Giordano spoke about: The Budget was approved we may expect \$24-\$41 increase in taxes. The council will be working to put more money in reserve. The town bought 3 acres of land for the town. They bought a new fire truck & vehicle. Last 10 years the town has had no tax increases. The town on the advice of Access for All moved light STOP button higher for our citizens in wheelchairs. Town is looking at ways to redevelop and improve the look of the town, making it pretty and inviting. We still have a deer issue in town. We will have the concerts in the park, new website, lots of library programs, Memorial Day Parade. We are up to 102 members.
- Reminder April 1 is our renewal date - please renew your membership online. Your anniversary date will be your new renewal date. You can use the online program to update your info.
- We want to welcome our new members: Reflection Studio in Fort Lee they specialize in portraits, the owner will be here next month; Matthew Diner all our 5K meetings are there, Christian Health, they are here today to talk more they are senior living, short term rehab & mental health services, Philly Pretzel Factory in Allendale - is co-owned by Tony Romano who owns Gearblock Brewery. We welcome Kelly Tanis president of Christian Health.
- Kelly is from Christian Health. Kelly spoke about Christian Health's services. She is the Dir of Marketing & Communications - they have adult day services, have several location Wyckoff & Wayne.
- Curtis Springstead from SCORE spoke about SCORE and their 80 mentors and how SCORE will provide small business owners with advice and mentorship for new and any business - advise for anything you need & it's all free. They can look for advisors in any field as their reach is nationally. If you are turning over your business to another, they can give advice. If you are a non-profit, they will help. They teach you to focus & get your business up and running or back on track or just advise for anything. Today Curtis is

also speaking about the historical train society town in Waldwick. They are doing fundraisers. Take a look at All Aboard on Facebook and their site. Waldwick WC Interlocking to become art. They are joining the MTA and Amtrak to bring art to local rails. Share your artist friends there is going to be an opportunity to create art in the tower's unique space. They are always also looking for help to keep the history of the Borough of Waldwick. Curtis spoke about Northwest Bergen History Coalition Annual History Day on April 27 10-4pm - come visit 12 museums for just \$10. You have probably driven by many of these museums & wondered what's inside. Lots of events.

- Cristine Madley spoke about Sponsorship for the Families 4 Families Mother's Day Brunch flyers giving out - \$100 to \$1000 go to wwwfamilies4families.com.
- Jennifer Miano, Miano Chiropractor & Tracey Infield are working hard on the Chamber Scavenger Hunt. Jennifer spoke to the chamber asking businesses to commit to being part of the program ASAP and letting us know if they are willing/able to donate \$ or gifts towards prizes. Once we have a firm headcount, we will finalize how they want to participate and put it all together. She stressed that until we know who/how many are going to be part of the program, we were stalled. so, we need their feedback as soon as they get their emails. She passed out a passport booklet to outline how the program might look to participants. The overall goal is to promote our local businesses and allow them to get "discovered" or noticed. Stan spoke about the 5K. We have 353 runners 53 walkers. Goody bags with Chamber, NJ Promo & Generation III are being given out - sponsors need to get their items to Bombay Hut emails go out to sponsors this week.
- We have \$35K committed and 70 sponsors. Posters with sponsors were given out. We need volunteers - we have had low student response. After the race Mangia, Bombay Hut & Gearblock
- Julie Zier from the Hermitage spoke about their events the Victorian Tean May 11 1-4pm \$60 learn the history of tea parties' games and traditions & have some fun. The Vintage and Antique Festival is April 28 9-4pm Admission \$5 jcpromotions.info - vendors, live music, on-site appraisals, food trucks & museum tours - held on the Hermitage grounds.
- Jean Patrician from Eastwick College spoke about their \$1,000 scholarship that they are providing to any of our businesses - their employees, for themselves and their family. Write an essay, it's that simple. Immediate family is parent, legal guardian, brother, sister, spouse or partner.
- Dave Barthold spoke about the Fire Ball 2024 for the Fire Dept Win \$5,000 in gold - Limited to 300 tickets \$100 raffle ticket \$30 pasta dinner. June 29, 2024 MP Dire Dept. Funds go to Waldwick Fire Dept.
- Mary Beth Nappi, Liberty 100 Realty spoke about the Waldwick Town Wide Garage sale fundraiser Liberty 100 Realty is sponsoring April 27 & 28, proceeds go to the Waldwick Education Foundation.
- Barbara Hand from our Featured Member for May West Bergen Mental Healthcare spoke about their Wine & Spirit Tasting Fundraiser May 14 \$95 per person (Ridgewood Rotary sponsors) & in honor of mental health awareness month they are partnering with Steel Wheel Tavern on May 8th - 20% of all proceeds will go to West Bergen in support of their mission of hope & healing.
- Also, Bergen Volunteers is always looking for volunteers - 50% of NJ retired senior-only households are economically insure - CHORE helped more than 21,000 elderly residents with disabilities live independently. CHORE Community Helpers Offering Repairs.,