

Minutes of the Waldwick Chamber of Commerce General Meeting

Date: October 16, 2024

Time: 8:30 AM

Location: Waldwick Library

1. Welcome & Introductions

- **Stan Kowalski, President & W5K Race Director**, welcomed attendees and facilitated introductions.
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2. Chamber Updates

- **Mayor Giordano (Borough Updates):**
 - **Ragamuffin Parade:** Parade starts at Borough Hall, proceeds down Prospect Avenue to the train station, where judging for the costume contest and Trunk or Treat (including "Best Car") takes place.
 - **Election Day:** Polling locations will again be at the Borough Library, Ambulance Corps, and/or Borough Hall instead of schools.
 - **Committee Openings:** Openings available on the **Library Committee**. Interested parties are encouraged to apply via the borough website.
 - **Halloween Decorations:** Families decorated business windows for Halloween, creating a festive atmosphere.
 - **Holiday Tree Lighting:** Scheduled for **December 6, 2024**, at Borough Park. Sponsorship opportunities include Horse & Carriage, DJ, Port-o-John, Luminaries, and Giveaways.
 - **Town Budgeting:** The town is in the budgeting process.
- **Membership Updates:**
 - **Current Membership:** 117 members (94 businesses, 23 non-profits).
 - Waldwick businesses: 80
 - Outside Waldwick: 37
 - **New Members Welcomed:**
 - Heritage WBE Inc., Mimi's Cookies, Best Vision Media, Bergen Volunteers, Farm Sahel, Radical Jiu Jitsu, Ridgewood/Ho-Ho-Kus Magazine, Allendale/Saddle River Rotary, Sizzling American/Mediterranean Grill.
- **Motion to Approve September Minutes:**
 - Motion by George Raskakis, seconded by Brian Mackey. Motion carried.
- **Key Updates:**
 - **Taste of Waldwick:** Rescheduled to Spring 2025.

- **Summer Passport Recap:** Successful promotion.
 - **W5K Run & Walk 2024:** Tentative date is May 4, 2025.
 - **Donations to Date:** \$41,345.
 - **Kickoff Meeting:** November 18, 2024, at Matthew's Diner, 8:30 AM.
 - **Gregg Butler:** Appointed as Chair of SCORE Northeast NJ.
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3. Recent Events

- **September 18:** Chamber meeting hosted by The Bristal at Waldwick.
 - **September 25:** Multi-Network Oktoberfest at Ho-Ho-Kus Inn & Tavern.
 - Sold-out event with 60 attendees. Sponsored by Provident Bank, The Bristal at Waldwick, and Ho-Ho-Kus Inn.
 - **October 12:** Grand Opening of Radical Jiu Jitsu.
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4. Upcoming Events

- **October 19:** Grand Opening of Esteem Bio Mechanics (12:00 PM).
- **October 19-20:** Savor the Fall Flavors at The Bristal at Waldwick (10:00 AM–2:00 PM).
- **October 25:** Cuisine Crime Community Fundraiser at WBMH (6:30 PM).
- **October 26:** Ragamuffin Halloween Parade & Trunk or Treat (10:00 AM).
- **November 11:** Veterans Day Ceremony (11:00 AM).
- **November 14:** Taste & Toast fundraiser by Bergen Volunteers and Fall Beer Tasting fundraiser by Allendale/Saddle River Rotary at Gearblock Brewing Company.

Note: Chamber members are encouraged to submit additional business events and promotions for inclusion in weekly newsletters and the website.

5. Business Resources

- **SCORE Northeast NJ:** score.org/northeastnj
 - **NJEDA Small Business Services:** njeda.gov/smallbusinessservices
 - **New Jersey Business Action Center:** (1-800-JERSEY-7) nj.gov/state/bac
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6. Attendees

Mary Beth Nappi, Mike Glickman, Dave Barthold, Chuck Farricker, Brian Mackey, Joe Hart, Karen Stires, Karen Centauro, Amanda & Karen (HHE Printing), Gregg Butler, George Raskakis, Neil Bortolus, Christine Figulio, Marth, Michele (Rival), Jeanne Patrick, Harris Morris,

Mark Loethan, Jennifer Miano, Ali (Sizzling Grille), Lisa & Martha (Ridgewood/Ho-Ho-Kus Living), Natalia, Rani (Seasons Nails), Neha (Bombay Hut), Julie Pignatelli, Nick Stratton, Paul Del Rey (Waldwick Booster Club), Chip Yeager, Ernesto, Tracey Infield, Carol Cuttilo.

7. Closing Remarks

- The meeting concluded with reminders to stay engaged through newsletters, promote events, and volunteer for upcoming activities such as judging DECA competitions at Waldwick High School. We reminded members to “tag” the chamber on social media so we can repost. WCOC also is always looking for content for the newsletter, should you have an event or special or fundraiser, please send to info@waldwickchamberofcommerce.com. We also need featured members, email: info@waldwickchamberofcommerce.com