

**Mount Airy Main Street Association  
November 21, 2006**

**1. Introductions:**

Ellie Bonde	Celia Bernido	Michele Caballero	Mankaa Ngwa-Suh
Debbie Holt	John Cherry	Sherri Johnson	Catherine Nazarene
Jim Holt	Gary Nelson	Amy Lubick	Dalia Schulman
Chris Bernido	Aaron Lubick	Peter Helt	Steve Schulman
Tonya Lee	Dick Swanson	Tina Swanson	Judy Elwood
James Holt	Patty Williamson	Alice Kenefick	Sara Bott
Joanne Sapp			

**2. Committee Reports**

A. Organization (Aaron Lubick): Aaron gave an overview of the Shop, Sip, and Stroll event as part of the Christmas holiday event from 5-9 pm on Fri and Sat (12/1 and 12/2).

B. Promotions (Ellie Bonde): Ellie provide details about the upcoming Christmas event and circulated two flyers printed for the event. She noted that we have received numerous donations to help cover expenses. The committee has made an effort to involve numerous businesses and spread activities throughout the town. The fire company is helping to organize the parade. Volunteers are needed: Saturday morning at 10am to help string lights and snowflakes in the warehouse where the train display will be located.

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, MAMSA will be organizing its Second Saturday event which will be a Cookie Walk. Participating stores will have cookies available during their regular hours.

Chili cook-off: Scheduled for the Second Saturday in April (4/14). Chili participants bring their own tents and equipment. A local scout troop will be selling hot dogs.

C. Economic Restructuring – no report

D. Facade (Amy Lubick): Amy summarized latest news about the Facade grant including some of the initial recipients scheduled to begin renovations in the near future. MAMSA is looking into getting an extension for the period of time in which the initial \$25,000 grant must be spent to allow recipients time to complete the work. MAMSA has received a second grant in the amount of \$75,000 for further facade improvements.

E. Design (Amy Lubick): Amy noted that we've received \$3,000 in donations for the Sandra Dion planter program. The planters have arrived; a potential problem was identified in that the actual planter inside the square box is round, resulting in open spaces at the corners that could collect trash; MAMSA has contacted the supplier to remedy this; Snell's has agreed to sell the plants at a discount and help MAMSA identify appropriate plants.

### **3. Council Report (Gary Nelson):**

Reported that we've been approved for a \$75,000 Community Legacy Grant. Not sure what has been approved, but the projects for which \$ was requested include sidewalks, trees, lighting, and park improvements. The town received 1/2 of the requested money.

Gary reported that the town council approved a position that includes half-time Main Street manager responsibilities and half-time town planner responsibilities. They hope to hire someone in February 2007. Gary said that the town council will consider hiring contractual support if the newly hired person cannot meet MAMSA's needs. Gary said that MAMSA will be involved in the interview process.

Security: Gary asked what should be done about security downtown. He received stats from the local troopers about vandalism in the downtown area. Regarding additional lighting, there are town ordinances that must be considered. This could be part of a comprehensive strategy for downtown. A question was asked about whether improved lighting could be incorporated into new facades through the facade grant program.

- > Problems: vandalism, graffiti, intimidation, "gang of people"
- > Local trooper is willing to meet with MAMSA to discuss
- > Surveillance cameras: Gary isn't trying to impose a solution but rather work toward a solution
- > Gary attended a DBA meeting and found that there was support for cameras
- > A suggestion was made that we seek information from the Nat'l Main Street organization to seek input/guidance.
- > Gary said they've met with three vendors about camera systems.
- > Judy attended the Nat'l Main Street org.'s recent conference and these suggestions were given: 1) stores keep interior lights on, 2) limit the covered areas of their windows (<30%).
- > Gary noted that more activities need to be available for teens.
- > It was noted that lights have been out for a long time and have not been fixed properly by Allegheny.
- > A suggestion was made that a task force be organized to evaluate the issue, discuss solutions, and make recommendations. Gary noted that we have a community forum to discuss.
- > MAMSA requested a copy of the police report for downtown incidents.

Gary recommended that MAMSA have elections and suggested that nominations come through the town.

### **4. Main Street Manager's Report**

#### **A. Strategic Plan:**

- § Volunteer Hours: Sarah reiterated the importance of submitting volunteer hours

- § Farmers market: If MAMSA wishes to hold a regular farmers market the committee needs to revisit this to make sure it is planned in time for the summer.
- § Newsletter: Need volunteers to assist with this effort.

B. Sarah can facilitate these efforts but her time is limited to working on the Facade grant. Sarah's schedule was dictated by Gary and Monika rather than MAMSA.

C. Architect on call: Dec 8<sup>th</sup>: Architects coming out to look at two businesses with the hopes that they will be participants in next year's facade grant program.

#### **4. New Business/Announcements**

A. Nominations:       President – Dalia Schulman  
                                  Vice President - Sherri Johnson  
                                  Treasurer – Celia Bernido  
                                  Secretary – John Cherry

A movement was made to vote on the slate of officers. 19 yea votes and 2 no votes

B. Dalia called for a push for new members. Sarah noted that we need significant man power to help with a membership drive. Sherri noted that shop owners need to appeal to shoppers that come into their stores.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report**

**\$4,806 in the Carroll Co. Foundation.**

#### **6. Next Meeting**

**December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm**

*Meeting minutes prepared by John Cherry*