

Mount Airy Main Street Association
September 18, 2007
www.mountairyainstreet.org

1. Introductions:

Celia Bernido	Sherri Johnson	Jim Gangawere
John Cherry	Judy Elwood	Tonya Lee (<i>Messenger</i>)
Dalia Schulman	Chris Bernido	Mindy Barnowski
Ellie Bonde	Jim Holt	Connie McKain

The meeting opened with a presentation from Rob Scranton on his conceptual plans for rebuilding the Bohn building.

2. Committee Reports

- A. Organization (open position): No report this month.
- B. Promotions (Ellie Bonde): Ellie was not in attendance this evening. Dalia
- C. Economic Restructuring (Dick Swanson): No report this month.
- D. Façade (Chris Bernido): Façade Improvement Reimbursements have been approved by the State for the Blossom and Basket Project and the Skowron Bldg.
 - The Skowron Brothers have submitted their Payment Request for the exterior painting. The Committee has approved 50% reimbursement.
 - The Façade Committee recently received a Façade Proposal from Curt Schreffler for 1 Park Avenue. Mr. Schreffler is request Façade assistance for: Window Replacement; Re-Construction of a former porch roof; Restoration of the Masonry along the front of the building; Replacement of the existing frame garage.
- E. Design (Tina Swanson): No report this month.
- F. Membership (Judy Elwood): No report this month.

3. Treasurer's Report (Celia Bernido)

- ÿ Town budget remaining as of July 1, 2007: \$2,376 available for MAMSA use (balance of the \$15K allocation).
- ÿ Carroll Co. Community Foundation balance is \$9,556.46 (6/30/07). The money in this account is from membership dues and fundraising activities. Of this amount, \$1,520 is in the Sandra Dion Memorial Fund.

4. Main Street Manager's Report (Kelly Ziad):

5. Council Liaison Report (Gary Nelson):

6. Upcoming Event Dates

(A) Second Saturdays:

(B) Local businesses:

7. New Business/Announcements

- ÿ **Rob Scranton attended the MAMSA meeting to present his conceptual plans for rebuilding the Bohn building.** He noted that construction for the new plaza building (at 114 Main St) was supposed to begin the Tuesday after Labor Day. Rob and his team of architects and designers have come up with a new plan following the fire and loss of the Bohn building. The design includes:
 - Additional stepped setbacks off of the street (e.g., 15 ft setback in front of Bohn building; adjacent to larger plaza area)
 - Pedestrian access way between the adjacent building damaged during the fire. This would be a stairway to the rear of the building.
 - Elevator and lobby to access second floor.
 - New building to resemble the old building; though slightly narrower to accommodate the walkway; the street-access stairwell to the second floor would be removed; building would have modern conveniences and safety features (e.g., sprinklers).
 - Aggressive schedule/goal would be to start the foundation/footers at 114 and then get approvals to start the Bohn building foundation immediately afterwards. It is being handled as an amended site plan for the 114 building.
 - The setback issue is on the agenda for the Planning Commission meeting on Monday 9/24.
 - It was noted that effort is still underway to setup temporary store fronts in the parking area behind the train station.
 - MAMSA members came to consensus that the association supports the proposal for a 15-20 foot setback.

- ÿ **November 17th Fund Raising Event at Linganore Winery:** Dalia reported that the focus of the fundraiser has changed. Initially it was to support MAMSA and help it become self-sufficient in future years. Now the event will focus on raising money for Main Street businesses. A number of fundraising efforts are underway. Dalia expressed thanks for donations that have been given in the weeks following the fire. A meeting is scheduled tomorrow (9/19) at 3 pm at Knittin' Chicks to discuss focusing on corporate sponsorships of the event. MAMSA is currently evaluating how to disburse funds. Options are a grant program for businesses or loans.

- ÿ **Volunteers Needed:** MAMSA is keeping a list of people who have indicated a willingness to help. It was noted that help from volunteers will be needed throughout the rebuilding process, including once the temporary store fronts are ready to be set up and built out. Mayor Johnson reported that a volunteer bank is under consideration to track interested parties and their skills.
- ÿ In The Garden Columnist from NY Times to attend the Farmer's Market next week.
- ÿ Dick Swanson reported that they are putting together a coupon campaign for downtown businesses to handout during Fall Fest. The goal will be to setup the incentive so that it encourages people to return after Fall Fest.
- ÿ Dick Swanson's daughter is a handbag designer in NY. They have offered to send us 24 example handbags as samples of production models. Bags will be sold at Fall Fest as a fund raiser.
- ÿ MAMSA is seeking donated items for the auction at the Nov. 17th fund raiser.
- ÿ Tickets should be ready tomorrow. The limit is 200 tickets.
- ÿ Oct 27: Mr. Laurienzo reported that a free rock concert is scheduled for 2pm to 6pm at the new bandstand in Watkins Park to raise money for downtown. MAMSA will be asked to help coordinate the event.
- ÿ A suggestion was made for MAMSA to host a seminar for small businesses to discuss insurance and other relevant and important issues. Kevin Murphy of Browning Insurance was in attendance. He noted that his company had advance checks to his policy holders almost immediately and stressed the importance of having a personal relationship with your insurer. Mayor Johnson noted that the Chamber has information about formal training opportunities for businesses as well.

8. Next Meeting

October 16, 2007 (7:30 pm at Town Hall)

Meeting minutes prepared by John Cherry