



VILLAGE CHAT - DOBBS FERRY, April 16, 2024
10:00am Zoom

In attendance: Matt Rosenberg (Dobbs Ferry Village Trustee), Shari Rosen Ascher (Dobbs Ferry Village Trustee and County Representative), Jessica Galen (Dobbs Ferry Trustee/Bloomy's), Paddy Steinschneider (Dobbs Ferry Village Rep/Gotham Design Placemaking Planning & Development Ltd), Nitin Gupta (Dobbs Ferry Village Rep/Rivertowns Pediatrics), Danielle Centofanti-Davidson (Chamber President/Main Street Business Strategies), Dina Fleischman (Chamber Vice President/Oilladi), Christy Knell (Chamber Treasurer/Hudco), Melissa Panszi Riebe (Chamber Secretary/A D'zine), Diana Martinez (Healthy Home Energy & Consulting, INC. in Brewster)

Meeting Notes:

County Update:

- Diverse Abilities Job Fair will be taking place on April 4th at the County Center; over 60 employers will be present
- May 22, 2024 - small business event with Chambers and MWBEs with MTA and NY Power Authority. Event will focus on Disadvantage Business Enterprises (DBEs), i.e federal contract opportunities..panel discussion, contract opportunities, networking. Free tables for all chambers.
- Larchmont Chamber meeting discussed a vacant registry, whereby the owner has to fill out a form to inform of their vacancy status. Shari suggested this may be an idea that the Rivertowns villages can consider. Larchmont Chamber also held a special networking event specifically for home-based businesses and service providers, which was also a good idea.
- Westchester Catalyst Newsletter/Westchester County of Economic Development - everyone should sign up for county updates

DIG Update:

- DIG meeting on Friday to address protocol questions for community regarding funding
- DIG update provided by Christy - A list of projects the committee is interested in was given to the consultants. Board of Trustees will make the final decision on what will move forward.
- DIG Priorities for Dobbs Ferry:
 - #1 Facade and sidewalk improvement program - \$150k of \$300k (Matt said Buildings Department should be citing businesses for facades and

telecommunication companies should clean up the lower wires on Main and Cedar, so no need for DIG funding to go to that); Shari mentioned that there are various programs that exist to assist owners with some of those responsibilities

- #2 Signage and Wayfinding- \$100k
- #3 Zero-to-low interest loan program for new or existing businesses for storefront enhancements. Loan program would be cyclical in nature, allowing money to grow and be used in the future. Not sure if this is a permitted use of the grant funding
- Contract with the consultants ends in July. Contract to get the money is through the end of the year. Shari is currently working on a way that this funding can be used up front, as opposed to being reimbursed after the fact

Village Update:

- Construction is on schedule and the plan is to have the pool, summer camps, and park reopen in time for the summer season. Village is currently dealing with the insurance company in regard to the building that had the fire. There are collapse concerns and environmental concerns
- Downtown committee is working on pitching sidewalk activation for June 1st River Arts Music Crawl and finalizing a contract with Phoenicia Flea to have that event on the same day. Plan is to have a shuttle that will loop around the waterfront/train station through the entire downtown and back to the waterfront. Looking to plant RiverArts mini stages on Cedar and Main, and one up Cedar.
- Another event in the works for July - activation for restaurants, which would incorporate kid programming
- Verizon Towers - Current proposal to put a tower on the apartment building on Hatch Terrace, which requires city permits and requires Verizon and Hatch Terrace to reach a rental agreement; a tower is also being proposed for the DPW building. Matt and Jessica will follow up with Rob to see if an arrangement has been made between Verizon and Hatch Terrace.
- RFPs received for affordable housing. Received a total of 7. Internal subcommittee meeting on the 30th to review RFQs and hope to be able to make recommendations at that time. Most were interested in all 3 sites; some only for 99 Cedar..
- Piccola is now a member. Bloomy/Piccola has an upcoming joint event
- Bloomy event with Floral Society on Thursday for female creatives/entrepreneurs
- A D'zine pop-up in Cold Spring for the months of April and May
- Fall foliage boat trip that happens in Cold Spring. Interest in possibly bringing something like this to Dobbs Ferry. Wind-powered sailboat idea to activate waterfront - open to doing sunset cruises from Dobbs. Hoping to make one happen this year.
- Adding a parking zone on lower Main to accommodate residents who live far from municipal lots. New parking zone would end at 6pm. Adding an optional 3rd hour for stretch of Cedar and Main, which would be a pilot project through September 30th. Chamber will help spread the word.

Chamber update:

- Taste Local event on 5/18. Chamber would like to set up a table on Cedar and Main for ticket pickup and one in front of Climbing Wolf. Free parking will be available at the Cedar Street municipal lot. Chamber to send a note to the mayor and Maragaret Parr (copy Nicole, Deputy Mayor) to get it approved asap since the Village Administrator is currently away on vacation.
- Women's Social on 5/9
- Chamber meeting at 5/15 at 9am - Venue TBD
- June fundraiser 50/50 for Abbott House via Instagram auction. Call for businesses to donate for the fundraiser