



May 18, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 111 • Mantua, OH 44255

2011 - 2012 Officers
Christine Pitsinger, President
Missy Lyle, Vice President
Joan Sweet, Treasurer
Becky Tipton, Secretary

In Attendance:

Marie Stehli, CPA
Maria Schmidt, UH Geagua Medical Center
Arden Sommers, Crestwood Schools
Brad Raum, Robinson Memorial
Rick Frato, Edward Jones
Linda Clark, Mantua Village Council
Dean Olson, Portage County Soap Box Derby
Jim Oster, Oster & Associates
Becky Newell, Benner Masonry Contractors
Donna Hawkins, Mantua Village Mayor
Keith Barton, Law Office of Keith J. Barton
Joan Sweet, Middlefield Bank
Michelle Barnauskas, DMRC
Christine Pitsinger, Community Journal
Nancy Vines, Shalersville Township Trustee
Brian Reitz, Habitat of Portage
Shirley Schuster
Dayton Hickerson, Grand Promotional Products

Dorothy Caldwell, Shalersville Township
Sandy Pelphrey, Weekly Villager
Tom Kennedy, Marshall's Carpet Cleaning
Bob MacLearie, Mantua Masons, PCSBD, American Legion
Jodie Fiala, Jake's
Ron Lance, Diversified Enterprises
Celina Jyurovat, Geo's Excavating
Paulette Nichols
Carol Corbett, Crestwood Schools
Caren Stutzman, Zagursky's Pierogies
Edie Benner, Advanced Rehab, DMRC
Becky Tipton, Ameriprise Financial
Bo Johnson, Letter X Design
Virginia Goodell, Goodell Farms
Joe Pierelli, Huntington National Bank
Joann Vance, Middlefield Bank
Nick Ciofani, State Treasurer Josh Mandel's Office

Meeting was called to order at 7:36 a.m. Introductions were made.

VILLAGE & TOWNSHIP UPDATES

Mantua Township: Spring clean-up was held on May 14. Bids will be taken soon for paving at the intersection of Mantua Center and Skinner Roads.

Mantua Village: Spring clean-up will be held on May 21. There are plans to move the fireworks display that has previously been held at Hiram College to Crestwood High School. The school board is deciding whether to approve. The date is July 2. Thanks to American Legion Post 191 for hanging flags in the village.

Shalersville Township: Spring clean-up was held earlier in the month. There are plans to do paving in the Spring Hill development, located at Peck Road and Route 303. The township has been applying for grants for matching funds for paving projects.

Crestwood Schools: There has been a reduction in funding received from the state. The last day of school will be June 9, as 2 snow days will have to be made up.

MEMBER & GUEST ANNOUNCEMENTS

4C's: Remember that canned goods will be collected at all Chamber meetings!

Relay For Life: Dayton Hickerson announced that he will be participating in this event in Aurora on June 4 and 5. Donations are welcome.

Masonic Lodge Dinners: Bob MacLearie said that dinners will be held on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month in the summer. Details to follow.

Portage Faith United Methodist Church Dinner: Virginia Goodell announced that a chicken BBQ dinner will be held on May 21, at 4:30 p.m.

Portage County Soap Box Derby: Dean Olson said this year's Soap Box Derby & Cruise-In event will be held on June 18 and will include celebrity races and other events. He encouraged members to purchase ads for the race program.

Shalersville Historical Society: Nancy Vines announced that the Historical Society will be manning the concession stand at the ball park every evening during baseball games, beginning at the end of May.

Boy Scouts: Paulette Nichols said that several boys are working on their Eagle Scout projects, which involves a large amount of community service. Donations are welcome.

DMRC: Edie Benner thanked all who participated in the spring spruce-up event on Saturday. The annual town hall meeting was well-attended. At the meeting, the group discussed projects that are planned. Along with making the downtown area more aesthetically appealing, the organization plans to improve infrastructure and provide access to businesses for people with disabilities. Input, suggestions, and support are always welcome.

Art on the Hill: The event will be held on July 9, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. More artisans are needed to participate; please sign up if you are interested, or pass information along to those who are.

Advanced Rehab: Edie Benner announced that on June 1, there will be a customer appreciation event, with free fitness tips and healthy snacks. On June 16, sports physicals will be available for students, and on June 22, adult fitness physicals will be provided.

Ohio State Treasurer's Office: Nick Ciofani from State Treasurer Josh Mandel's office talked about the economic development and small business programs that are available. Small businesses may qualify for loans or reduced interest rates on current loans. Also available are agricultural loans. Nick said that anyone who has any questions about services offered by the state of Ohio – even ones not related to the Treasurer's office – is welcome to call the office in order to find out who they can talk to.

NEW BUSINESS

Scholarships: Dorothy Caldwell announced that there will be a presentation tonight at the high school. A total of 17 applications were received. Thanks to committee members Dorothy Caldwell, Hank Cabot, Paulette Nichols, and Jim Oster.

Golf Outing: Joann Vance said the event is coming together, with lots of prize and hole sponsors participating. More teams are needed at this time.

Community Garage Sales: These will be held on July 22 and 23. Businesses and individuals are encouraged to participate.

Flower Baskets: The chamber will reimburse expenses for the village and townships, up to \$250, for hanging baskets. Submit receipts to Joan Sweet.

Meeting Location Change: Today's meeting is being held at Shalersville Town Hall. Thanks to Dorothy Caldwell for arranging this. Future meetings may not be held at the fire station, as concerns have been raised regarding regulations imposed by the pharmaceutical board. Feel free to offer suggestions for where to hold future meetings. Watch e-mail for location of the next meeting, on June 15.

Business After Hours Event: Based on feedback about the first event, held in April, the Chamber may sponsor another business After Hours event within the next few months. Please speak with one of the officers if you have suggestions for when and where to hold the event.

FEATURED BUSINESS

Geo's Excavating: Celina Jyurovat from Geo's Excavating said that the company provides basement waterproofing, trenching, drainage, and other services. Her husband started the company in 1990. Celina welcomes inquiries and is happy to share photos of the company's work.

MINUTES, TREASURER'S REPORT, MEMBERSHIP

Approval of Minutes: Keith Barton motioned to approve, Bob MacLearie seconded.

Treasurer's Report: There is currently \$12,570.27 in the checking account and \$5,241.77 in the scholarship fund.

Membership: There are currently 84 members.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Brian Reitz of Habitat For Humanity of Portage County: Brian Reitz is the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Portage County. Since it was started in 1988, the organization has built or renovated 56 homes in the county. The philosophy is to offer a "hand up, not a hand out", and people who receive assistance from Habitat for Humanity are required to meet specific financial requirements, as well as participate in their projects themselves. The organization maintains a home improvement store in Kent called "Restore". Individuals interested in providing support can do so by donating items for the store, money, or their time, or by shopping at the store.

DOOR PRIZE

Congratulations to Dorothy Caldwell, who won a 1/2 gallon of pure Ohio Maple syrup donated by Goodell Farms.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.