****

Place: Romer’s Banquet Room

Date: 10/05/2020

**Members present**: Leah Koesters, Kim Baumer, Sharon Rindler, John Yoder, David Romer, Andy Schmitmeyer, Frank Urwin, Ryan Lange, Deborah Mertz, Lauren Elliot

**Special Guest**: Cara Muhlenkamp

President, Kim Baumer called the meeting to order. **Minutes** from the Seeptember 14th meeting were approved as written. Frank Urwin made the motion for approval, the motion was seconded by David Romer and passed by unanimous vote.

**Treasure’s Report**: David Romer reported $170.45 in our checking account, and $30,924.18 in the savings account.

Kim introduced guest speaker, Cara Muhlenkamp, Cara is the Manager of the Mercer County Fairgrounds. She shared information about the recently completed fair and how the Covid pandemic affected their events. In an effort to raise additional funds for the fairgrounds, a new event, **“Merry and Bright Christmas Lights”** is being planned for the Friday after Thanksgiving and runs up until the week of Christmas. It will be a one-mile path of Christmas lighting through the Fairgrounds. With hopes of becoming an annual event, the Project seeks volunteers to help make it a success. Your sponsorship will get you name mentions on the display route and you will receive Admission passes to give to your employees or use as drawing opportunity for your customers. Because of the support from the whole Chamber, we will be using some of the passes in our Village Open House drawing. Detailed information about the project and information about how you can become for involved ws shared with all members via email attachments.

In **Other Business:**

1. Village Map - David reported that the Village of St Henry agreed to pay for half of the cost of the map printing. ($529.50). Our Chamber will pick up the remaining $529.50. Karen Romer has distributed copies of maps to all area businesses that have customer foot traffic – if you did not receive a supply and would like to have maps – please reach out to Karen Romer – 419-678-8482. All extra quantities of the map will be kept at the Village Office.
2. Combined Drive – The Combined Drive card has been mailed out and Matt Lammers will track the returns. It is our plan to invite donation recipients to our December meeting. Costs involved with the mail piece … Postage-$135.23; Envelopes & Donation card-$125.03
3. Christmas Open House – Kim stated that approximately 18 businesses will be participating in the open house and we are on target to top last year’s prize offerings thanks to donations from local businesses - FABULOUS! We are planning a ***week-long open house*** allowing people to be in and out of businesses with the hopes of discouraging overcrowding the stores and creating a safe shopping experience. Learn about this year’s ELF HUNT!! Sounds like fun!! Advertising will be done strictly by mail piece. Radio and newspaper advertising will be done on your own.

Kim Baumer invited Deborah Mertz to talk about her new business; **Fit and Cozy Boutique** which is located in Totally Fit! The boutique offers work out clothing and casual wear for women, men and youth boys and girls. In addition, she announced plans are in the beginning stages to construct a new building on the south end of the Town Plaza to house **“Cozy Cabin Café”**. They are planning an end of the year groundbreaking – stay tuned for more information! Eventual plans are for the boutique to move into this new building – Way to go Deborah!!

**Lauren Elliot** was welcomed to the meeting and introduced as the new owner of Brides and Beyond. Lauren has been managing the store for 3 years and is transitioning over to owner! Congratulations, and welcome Lauren. Lauren lives in Minster with her husband Dustin, their daughter, and new baby boy on the way!

Speaking of new members … add **Niekamp Flea Market** to the List! They will be a participating sponsor in the upcoming Christmas Open House.

Talk continues as plans for a Virtual Meeting is planned to remind every member of their benefits.

A motion to adjourn the meeting came from Frank Urwin and a second from Ryan Lange. Motion carried.

**Pot of Gold** winner – THE MINUTE TAKER STOPPED TAKING NOTES – OH NO!! Let’s see, my memory says Andy Schmitmeyer wins a pot of $24 … correct me if I am wrong!!

Thank you to Brides and Beyond for hosting our meeting “stress relief” … WAY TO WELCOME THE NEW KID!

Minutes taken and prepared by

Sharon Rindler

Secretary