

DDMO Meeting notes
June 17, 2025 meeting

Meeting opened at 6:33 pm.

Attendance - Chris Cotty, Tara, Laura Meyers, Bill Robinson, Derryck White, Peg Lockwood

Meeting notes from May 20, 2025 accepted

Hanging baskets/planters - self-watering planters/hanging baskets on order. Should be approximately a month away. Meanwhile, baskets at the gazebos were completed in time for the Memorial Day celebration.

Planters and new hanging baskets have been delivered to DPW. Will coordinate with DPW for planting.

Car Show - rescheduled for June 8 - was well attended - think we should include a sidewalk sale next year. DDMO was breakeven, after payment to police, sponsorships, trophies, etc., The Borough split the cost of the police, or we would have lost \$500.

June 21 - Street Fair on Route 28 and Mural dedication - 11 am on Saturday.

Road will be closed for Street Fair. Distributed road closure notices to all businesses. Discussed moving all street fairs to Sundays vs. Saturdays and possibly set up in center of the road vs. in front of businesses.

Unity Day - July 6 - murals will be brought to the park to be painted out by the community. DAICC will also paint international signs.

SID - survey sent to merchants downtown. Natalie compiled input - we received approximately 15 responses, but require 40 to have a significant enough response. Next step will be June 28 follow up with merchants for additional feedback.

Harvestfest - update on marketing - status of registrations - Derryck will provide an update on the number of registrations. Teresa offered to distribute literature or a QR code during Open Air Marketing on Sundays. We have literature for Music in the Park, Harvestfest and for the Summer Art Program. Peg will follow up with Heidi to talk about a QR code for Harvestfest registration.

Music in the Park kicks off this Thurs evening - combined with Juneteenth recognition. Lee will provide background on Juneteenth history, they will sing, Life your Voices and Sing, and will then highlight African American artists. Please support local musicians and come out to music in the park, every other Thursday.

Pop up retail in vacant spaces - Tara said that the Metuchen downtown committee fills a storefront with rotating pop-up retailers, which helps them to get some traction and get their product/services into the community, so they can expand business presence without the commitment of a long term lease. Committee will look for vacant space and a possible opportunity to do the same.

Meeting adjourned at 7:06