

## **Candor Revitalization Topic of Candor Chamber Meeting**

**By Anne O. Stout | Posted: Monday, May 23, 2016 6:00 am from The Candor Chronicle**

On Thursday, May 12 at 7pm at the Candor Fire Hall, the Candor Chamber held a meeting about the "Candor Revitalization Program" being proposed by David Astorina, local business owner of Green Home Heroes, LLC.

Astorina spoke about getting the idea as he watched the Edge of Thyme Bed and Breakfast in Candor go up for sale, yet no responses of interest. When Astorina spoke to some local realtors they talked about Candor not being a desirable place to buy. Some of the over 50 residents on hand voiced some opinions on that statement.

He agreed with those that spoke out and then Astorino presented a slide show outlining Candor's good points like the great people, natural beauty, unique commerce, strategic location and the history of the area, to name a few. "I think we can change that impression very simply, but it won't happen overnight," Astorina said.

The problems he mentioned with Candor are economy, real estate values, and impressions. "People tell me when they drive through the village they don't feel welcome." Astorina said, and few voices protested that statement.

He went on to explain how he moved here from New Jersey for the people, and beauty of the area and doesn't miss the other area at all.

He focused on the next step being looking for funding, like in grants, volunteers and groups to help, needing to attract tourists and locals, bring in new businesses and jobs and more. Ideas of where to start was to start assembling teams to help with planning, marketing, beautification and more. He mentioned Candor's new preserve, and Cornell students working on the Candor Farmer's Market.

Astorina suggested people get creative and think of new ideas like community gardens, one of a kind shops, nature activities and so much more; encouraging everyone present to try to think of new ideas. "The best way to predict the future is to create it."

State Senator Fred Akshar (R- 52nd District) was also on hand to be guest speaker, and immediately started talking about this area, the Southern Tier, losing population as our young people move away. One business he mentioned is the Crown, Cork and Seal going up in Tioga County, but "giving them a 30 year break on taxes is a problem."

Akshar went on to report on helping work on the budget, and mentioned a compromise with the Governor on the \$15 an hour minimum wage by the end of 5 years; but a study is planned in three years to see how it is going so far and the wage could be frozen there if it's not working out.

Candor Town Supervisor Bob Riggs asked who will be doing the study, and Akshar answered "the Governor" and a few moans could be heard. Akshar assured everyone that the results would not be able to be hidden.

"Albany has to understand what is good for Brooklyn is not always good for Binghamton, or Candor," Akshar said.

Akshar talked about his two main focuses, the business climate and the drug problem. He reported on fighting to reduce the tax rate on the middle class and reached a compromise of reducing it by 20% by 2025. The MTA, public transit in NYC will be getting \$27 Billion, and so will the NYS DOT.

"Albany is like herding cats," Akshar said, "when trying to talk to people or get a point across, and nothing is done quickly."

"I'm an open book, ask me anything," Akshar said, and many present got off the track, and not talking about the revitalization project.

One resident questioned about the loss of the public transit, and Akshar suggested they talk to their county representatives as they took it away.

When the meeting ended about 8 p.m., refreshments were enjoyed by many and future meetings for Candor Revitalization will be listed on their Facebook page.