

September 1, 2015

SACRED was organized to, among other things, promote the general welfare of the Swansboro area by advocating for responsible development of lands in and around the Town of Swansboro. While much of our recent activity has been focused on the proposed Walmart Supercenter development, our intent was never to be one dimensional. Our hope is that through citizen involvement, SACRED could constrain other errant developments from occurring and help make Swansboro the best it can be. With over 500 members, and most being Swansboro residents, we hope to continue with other community involvement that keeps our members engaged and membership base strong. With this introduction, please allow me to present the other activities SACRED intends to address going forward:

- 1) **Proposed Walmart Development** – Currently SACRED is involved in supporting activities to help finance the legal complaint against the town's permitting of the Walmart. We ask for citizens and businesses to support this cause with tax deductible financial assistance to help fund legal support.
- 2) **Town Structure** – This subject area covers several items including:
 - a. Swansboro needs a fulltime planning and zoning director. While we respect the capabilities of Scott Chase and other town employees, having an experienced person working fulltime on these issues will be critical to the town's future especially if the Walmart moves forward and commercial development increases.
 - b. Rewrite the state-mandated Comprehensive Land Use Plan. It is eight years old and in desperate need of updating. This document is the town's blueprint for future growth and is intended to be updated every five years. That's a public process that includes a series of public meetings. SACRED believes that the new plan needs to include specific goals and objectives for growth.
 - c. Fortify the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) - This document is a single ordinance encompassing Town regulations for development and provides zoning regulations. For the sake of all Swansboro residents, businesses, and developers, the UDO needs improvement to help keep unexpected developments from occurring and detracting from the town.
 - d. Town Organizational Structure – Voters will decide in November whether to change the town's form of government from town-manager to administrator. SACRED supports the town efforts to organize public workshops to inform people about the effects of such a change.
- 3) **Swansboro History Museum** – The museum can be a tourist draw and add value to Swansboro. The town's current budget leaves this development uncertain and unfunded. Our intent is to work with other stakeholders and help garner community support and direction for this project.
- 4) **Town Financial Viability**– Swansboro needs to be at a place where it is not only capable of defining the vision of its future and a legal structure that mirrors this vision, but also have the financial strength to afford the facilities and services the community intends. Conversely, a town that lacks financial strength is susceptible to outside pressures.

While SACRED's Board of Directors believes these issues are key to the continued positive growth of Swansboro, these activities require the support of the citizens of Swansboro. We welcome individuals to join us in our efforts. On behalf of the Board of Directors of SACRED, I appreciate your support.

Please feel free to contact me for questions.

Thank you,



Laurent Meilleur

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