

BIC/CEO Meeting Minutes
May 24 – 4:00pm – 5:30pm
FITCI @ ROOT 118 N. Market Street

BIC Members Present: Tony Checchia, Tom Lynch, Dwayne Myers, Scott Ryser, Jason Stanczyk, Pete Plamondon and Denise Jacoby

Other Attendees: Jan Gardner, Helen Propheter, Heather Gramm, Michelle Day and Katie Albaugh

CEO Attendees: Tony Brusco, David Price, Rachel Armistead and David Blackmon

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from January 25, 2018 were approved (Motion – Tom Lynch, 2nd – Andrew Toms)

Agriculture and Brewery CEO's Updates:

Katie Albaugh gave an overview of agriculture in Frederick County.

Three businesses shared information about their companies:

South Mountain Creamery/Hometown Harvest (Tony Brusco with special guest David Price)

Randy and Karen Sowers started farming in 1981. They rented the land they now own and took out a loan to buy 100 cows. By 1987, they had purchased the home farm of 100 acres. By 2001, they had their own on farm-dairy processing plant, the first in Maryland. Tony and Abby Brusco started Hometown Harvest in 2009, providing fresh local produce directly to your door. In the spring of 2017 Hometown Harvest and South Mountain Creamery (SMC) officially became one. Today the Sowers family owns and farms 2,200 acres. SMC milks 550 head, raises over 100 beef cattle each year and 16,000 laying chickens. Three generations now work on the farm. Tony & Abby (Sowers) Brusco and Ben & Kate Sowers now run it. SMC is an important part of the local economy, employing over 75 people and delivering to nearly 9000 families.

Sweet Farm Sauerkraut (Rachel Armistead)

Rachel Armistead and Luke Flessner started Sweet Farm Sauerkraut together in 2011. After much experimentation, product sourcing, and hard work, Sweet Farm Sauerkraut debuted its four main flavors—Classic Kraut, Beet Kraut, Curry Kraut, and Curtido—at local farmers markets in the fall of 2011. Word of their delicious krauts quickly spread, and stores and restaurants started calling for products. Three years later, Rachel and Luke's expanding line of krauts can be found in a growing number of stores, restaurants and farmers markets in the Greater DC area. Sweet Farm Sauerkraut is located in beautiful Frederick County, and is dedicated to providing fresh and local krauts that are as healthy as they are delicious.

Smoketown Brewing Station (David Blackmon)

Smoketown Brewing Station opened its doors in March of 2016, and has been a game changer for Brunswick. Occupying the Old Fire Station, a brewery wasn't always Dave's plan until Tom Barse of Milkhouse Brewery toured the building. Learning as he went, he opened Smoketown Brewing Station with his family alongside. Dave is currently working on the 8,000 sq. ft event space on the second floor which once hosted icons such as Patsy Cline and George Jones. Anticipated opening is late summer.

Submitted by: Helen Propheter, OED