

Recognition of Steinwehr project

BY ALEX J. HAYES Times Managing Editor | Posted: Tuesday, May 24, 2016 3:06 am

Dozens of people came together Monday morning to celebrate the result of coming together.

When the Gettysburg National Military Park Visitor Center moved from Steinwehr Avenue to Baltimore Pike in 2008, business owners trembled. To make matters worse, the Borough of Gettysburg was considering rezoning the area to be residential.

"We pouted, we cried, we got angry and then we turned to a more positive approach," said McDonald's owner and Main Street Gettysburg Chair Emmett Patterson.

That positive approach was forming a Business Improvement District that would result in \$6.4 million being pumped into Steinwehr over nine years.

Monday's celebration, held at Appalachian Brewing Company, was to mark completion of Phase Two of the project.

Gettysburg Borough Manager Charles Gable said the borough invested \$225,000 into the project, leading to a \$27.64 return for every \$1 invested.

Sidewalks were widened, lighting was improved and the street was paved.

Gettysburg National Military Park Superintendent Ed Clark said he often talks about the importance of the visitor experience.

"I see this project along Steinwehr very much along the same vein," Clark said, adding that visitors to the park "need places to shop, dine and stay, so Steinwehr is a perfect complement to the preserved areas of Gettysburg."

Paul Witt, owner of Quality Inn Gettysburg Battlefield and a Best Western that is slated to open next year, recalled how business owners were not sure what to think when former Main Street Gettysburg Chairman Bill Kough first proposed the business improvement district. Witt and Dobbin House owner Jackie White thought it was worth a shot and worked to bring others on board.

"This is just incredible that it really happened," Witt said.

But they couldn't do it alone. Many local, state and federal elected officials joined the cause.



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CELEBRATION - State and local officials joined business owners on Steinwehr Avenue in Gettysburg on Monday to officially cut the ribbon to Phase 2 of the Steinwehr Avenue revitalization. (Alex J. Hayes/Gettysburg Times)

"When these elected officials come through for us, they deserve the credit," said Jim Kralik, owner of Lincoln Train Museum.

Artie Tafoya, director of Appalachian Brewing Company, is not a part of Steinwehr's past as Witt, Kralik and White are, but he is excited to be part of its future.

"If you put enough talented people together, amazing things can happen," Tafoya said.

After the official ribbon cutting ceremony, those in attendance toured Steinwehr Avenue. Main Street Executive Director Deb Adamik said she is not only excited about Steinwehr's success, but how it is encouraging Baltimore Street businesses to work towards a similar revitalization.