



Minutes: Economic Development Advisory Committee May 15, 2023

The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Economic Development Advisory Committee was held on May 15, 2023, with Joe Memoli (Chairperson) presiding. The meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm

Board Members: Tom Marchesani, Beverly Brown, Ed Regina, and Deborah Emin in person, and Gina Bertucci (via Zoom).

Absent: Jared Acosta

Township Staff: Annette Atkinson, Township Supervisor, and James Brechbiel, ED Manager.

Township Residents/Guests: Vinny Bianchi

Minutes and Agenda

- Joe Memoli made a motion to approve the April Minutes and May Agenda. For the minutes, Beverly Brown seconded the motion, followed Deborah Emin. Motion passed 7-0. For the agenda, Gina Bertucci seconded the motion, followed by Tom Marchesani. Motion passed 7-0.

Correspondence

- No correspondence

New Business:

Business Updates:

- James Brechbiel reviewed the following updates on new businesses in the area:
 - Tractor Supply's soft opening was on 5/13/23. The Grand Opening is slated for Saturday, 6/3/23, (time for ribbon cutting ceremony TBD).
 - LaRosa's at 5224 Milford Rd., Suite 101, has been purchased and is now Tony's Pizza.
 - Marshalls Square Shopping Center (5224 Milford Rd.) – The plan to add (7) additional storefronts, with self storage in the back, is still in play. According to the property manager, they are still open to considering other prospects.
 - Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) is eyeing an opening for July, 2023, at the Marshalls Crossing Complex (the Price Chopper Complex).
 - A fish fry restaurant submitted applications to open in the Marshalls Crossing Complex.
 - The Country Club of the Poconos (CCP) property was advertised by CBRE on Mon., 5/8/23, and public notice placed by the township's Solicitor. The Sealed bids will be accepted by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to be opened at the BOS Meeting on 8/24/23 (not earlier).
 - Village Drive bridge will be closed after school closes for the summer and is projected to reopen right before the beginning of school in September (the latest).

Community Updates:

- James Brechbiel directed the committee to review the listed events at the bottom of the page of their agendas and spoke briefly about the following upcoming events:
 - 05/16 – Primary Elections at the Municipal Center and the Community and Cultural Center (CCC) at 7 am (polls close at 8 pm).
 - 5/17 – 1 Million Cups at Northampton Community College (NHCC) at 9 am.
 - Memorial for Davis Chant will be on Sun., 5/21/23, at 1 pm (Ann St. Park in Milford, PA).
 - 06/02: Red Cross Blood Drive at CCC @12-5pm.
 - 06/03: Beekeeping Demonstration at Community Gardens Park @9:30am.
 - 06/26: Marshalls Creek Explosion Marker Ceremony at 5175 Milford Rd @12pm.
- Joe Memoli noted that Hollow Bridge Rd. is closed.

Old Business:

- **Revitalize 209:**

There was a discussion of timeline and next steps

- 5/25: Revitalize 209 Committee expected to be seated
- 5/25-6/27: Revitalize 209 Committee meets, and organizes themselves
- 6/19: Next EDC meeting
- 6/27: tentative date for EDC to meet the Revitalize 209 Committee (hybrid meeting) unless the 209 Committee is ready by 6/19
- 6/19 forward: EDC to canvas 209 property owners, to make them aware of the 209 Grant Program
 - Flyer/Fact Sheet/FAQ's to be created
- After 6/19: have an open house/ or 3 in-person dates property owners on 209 can show up at the township and meet the EDC and ask questions about the grant

Announcements:

- Ed Regina inquired if Tractor Supply or PennDot would be responsible to pay for paving in front of the business.

Public Comments:

- Vinny Bianchi noted that asking “what would you like to change about your property?” is effective in canvassing.

Meeting adjournment: Joe Memoli asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 pm, motioned by Ed Regina, seconded by Deborah Emin. Motion passed 7-0.

The next meeting will be held on June 19, 2023, at 5:30 pm at the Township Municipal Center.

Respectfully Submitted,
James Brechbiel, Middle Smithfield Township