



Minutes: Economic Development Advisory Committee October 10, 2016

The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Economic Development Advisory Committee was held on October 10, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the Schoonover Municipal Building with Vice Chair Carrie Wetherbee as Chairman presiding.

Board Members: Carrie Wetherbee, Gina Bertucci (Absent), Carl Wilgus and Beverly Brown.

Township Staff: Supervisor Annette Atkinson, Robert Rengifo, Liaison and recording secretary.

Township Residents/Guests: Joe Memoli and Andy Gegaris.

Meeting started at 6:35 pm with Vice Chair Carrie Wetherbee presiding.

Minutes and Agenda

- Motion to accept and approve the minutes from the September 12, 2016 meeting was made by Carl Wilgus, Beverly Brown seconded the motion. All members were in favor.
- Motion to accept and approve the agenda with additions for meeting on October 10, 2016 was made by Carl Wilgus. Beverly Brown seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

Correspondence

- No correspondence

Old Business

NPS/Geo

- Carl Wilgus explained the program to the public.
- He elaborated that it is an app that is focused on promoting all organizations in the area.

Historical Marker Dedication

- Carrie Wetherbee informed the Board and public that the dedication will be on Wednesday, October 12th at 9am. The event will be held at the municipal building and will move to the historical marker site for a public unveiling.

ESU Economic Summit

- Carl Wilgus spoke about how Middle Smithfield Township's LERTA program was a part of the presentation by the County Commissioners at the event.
- Carl Wilgus handed out a packet for an upcoming PEDTA Economic Summit that will be held at Kalihari from October 31st to November 2nd.
- Beverly Brown discussed the issues local commercial realtors face Carrie Wetherbee suggested that the township reach out to commercial realtors. Annette Atkinson responded by saying that the Supervisors, Economic Development Committee, and Zoning Department

already meet with local realtors on a regular basis to go over township programs, and report back to the EDC

- Annette Atkinson suggests that the board members all take responsibility for one or more commercial realtors and begin to build a relationship with them By attending their sales meetings on a regular basis
- Beverly Brown mentioned how Geisenger was looking at Middle Smithfield property to build a new facility but they were concerned about public transportation in the area.

New Business

ShopLocal

- Robert Rengifo states that an email was sent out this week explaining ShopLocal to all business owners. The email also provides a link for business owners to submit their discounts online.
- Robert Rengifo explained how there will also be formal letters followed up by phone calls to all business owners. The letter will explain the program and contain a form that they can fill out to submit their ShopLocal discounts via mail.
- Annette Atkinson explains how she would like to see business owners come up with discounts unique to ShopLocal Joe Memoli inquired on how successful the ShopLocal event is. He elaborated how East Stroudsburg Borough tried a similar event and did not see many results.
- Carrie Wetherbee explained the fundamental aspects of the ShopLocal program and its success in recent years.

New Committee Members

- Carrie Wetherbee discussed the process of getting new members to join the board.
- Joe Memoli is given the opportunity to ask any questions about the Economic Development Committee.
- Joe Memoli and Annette Atkinson begin an open conversation regarding acquiring grants for infrastructure projects.
- There is open conversation on what the focal point should be in regards to the business being brought to the township.
- Andy Gegaris adds that all businesses should be welcome to the township, regardless of type.
- There is open discussion in regards to jobs that provide higher wages in the area and how many residents commute to New York and New Jersey for work.

Public Comments

- None

Meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2016. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.