



Minutes: Economic Development Advisory Committee August 8, 2016

The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Economic Development Advisory Committee was held on August 8, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the Schoonover Municipal Building with Robert Hetu as Chairman presiding.

Board Members: Carrie Wetherbee, Gina Bertucci, and Beverly Brown. Carl Wilgus and Robert Hetu could not attend.

Township Staff: Supervisor Annette Atkinson, Robert Rengifo as the

Liaison

Township Residents/Guests: Robert Lovingheim – Supervisor of Smithfield Township, and Ed Regina

Meeting started at 6:50 pm with Vice Chair Carrie Wetherbee presiding.

Minutes and Agenda

- Motion to accept and approve the minutes from the July 11, 2016 meeting was made by Gina Bertucci, Beverly Brown seconded the motion. All members were in favor.
- Motion to accept and approve the agenda for July 11th, 2016 made by Gina Bertucci. Beverly Brown seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

Correspondence

- No correspondence

Old Business

NPS/Geo

- Inquiring with websites to put links on their website in order to cross reference with other organizations.
- They are moving into their second phase of production, which would be targeting topics they should be promoting.
- Anticipated challenges would be the financing and maintenance of the program. Currently the program is funded by grants and sponsors. No charge for usage is estimated for this program.
- Robert Lovingheim suggests that there should be a geo-locate provision to the program.

Business Directory

- Business directory is up to date. Robert Rengifo gave updates on the information that is included in the directory.

- Points of contact were unclear for Bushkill Emergency Corporation. Ed Regina mentioned that he would provide that information for the directory.
- Carrie Wetherbee inquired about a “Move in/ Move out” ordinance the township is currently working on, which would require all businesses to provide notice if they are closing or opening a business in Middle Smithfield.
- Annette Atkinson mentioned that the Township Solicitor and the Zoning department are currently reviewing that draft ordinance.
- The directory will be listed on the WhereMST app, which would be accessible through desktop and smartphone. In order for there to be one concise location where the directory can be listed.

New Business

- Beverly Brown asked how the LERTA signs were doing in regards to marketing the properties in the township. Annette Atkinson replied that the township is receiving much more activity and there has been an increase in questions and calls.
- Beverly Brown also suggested going out to meet with realtors outside of the area. She referenced realtors in NY and NJ, and offered to make these contacts.
- Carrie Wetherbee asked about the flea market stands on the strip of land across from Regina Farms and St. John’s Church. She inquired if they are allowed by township ordinance.
- Annette Atkinson confirmed that the landowner has the permits for the stands.

New Business Ribbon Cutting

- New businesses were contacted by Robert Rengifo to ask if they would be interested in having a ribbon cutting ceremony for their business.
- Harjaap Chatha and Jason Mihalik both expressed interest in having a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Fossil Day (Dedication of Historical Marker)

- Dates are tentatively scheduled for October 10th – 15th.
- Unlike the Mastodon Madness which was an EDC event. This is a Historical Commission event.
- Carrie Wetherbee recommended having local schools come attend the event. It is still in discussion whether the event will be held in the morning (schools are in session) or afternoon (after school).

ShopLocal

- Will begin the planning phase at the end of September. There is no change to the production schedule yet.
- ShopLocal will begin the week before Thanksgiving.

WhereMST App Training

- Robert Hetu will train staff on the WhereMST app.

Public Comments

- Ed Regina commented positively on the LERTA lawn signs but the number of signs per plot should be more consistent, and some of the lawn signs are crooked.
- Beverly Brown would like the telephone number to be larger and more visible if they were reordered. Annette Atkinson commentated that the phone number is the maximum width of the lawn sign, unless the telephone number is put on two lines, or the area code is eliminated.
- Robert Lovingheim suggested looking into a community broadband internet service with local townships.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2016. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

DR