



## **Minutes: Economic Development Advisory Committee January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Economic Development Advisory Committee was held on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the Schoonover Municipal Building with Gina Bertucci (Chairperson) presiding, and Patrice Dume as recording secretary.

**Board Members:** Beverly Brown, Chris Barrett (absent), Joe Memoli, Anthony Homer and Gina Bertucci

### **Absent:**

**Township Staff:** Annette Atkinson, Supervisor/Admin & Ops Dir., Patrice Dume, Economic Development Manager

### **Township Residents/Guests:**

Meeting called to order at 6:01 pm with Gina Bertucci presiding.

## **Minutes and Agenda**

- Gina Bertucci motioned to accept the October meeting notes, Beverly Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 -0.

## **Correspondence**

- No correspondence

## **New Business**

### **Reorganization**

- Gina mentioned that Joe Memoli has been appointed as Chairperson.
- There was general discussion about the board members and their positions.
- The committee voted on the position for reorganization, and for 2019, Beverly Brown is Vice Chair, and Anthony Homer is Secretary.

### **Farmers Insurance Grand Opening .**

- Patrice mentioned that she had meetings with Gary Alt, the a new insurance business owner, and have decided to have the Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening on Wednesday January 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm.
- Gina asked if he could collaborate with Dunkin Donuts and have flyer in there and maybe have some refreshments from them.
- Patrice agreed that it would be a great idea and she will mention it to Gary. She also mentioned that Gary is a member of the Chamber and the event will be hosted by both the Chamber and Township.
- There was general discussion about the grand opening.
- Beverly suggested that there be a list of EDC events on every agenda, so members do not have to reply solely on email, and have the schedule of EDC meetings, events, etc..

### New business/ Existing business Update .

- Patrice mentioned that the old 209 Diner, Sabor Latin Restaurant, will open soon, Patrice spoke with Carmen who is the business owner. Zoning is also requiring having the water test results and ok from DEP before they can open.
- Patrice mentioned that the Fish n Chips restaurant should be opening soon.
- There was general discussion about the existing businesses and what businesses the committee would like to see come to the township.

### 2019 Monroe County Gigabyte

- Patrice went to the 2019 Monroe County Gigabyte event that was held at ESU. Patrice mentioned that the event was about how to get capacity and coverage needed to get 5G network in our community.
- There was general discussion about broadband and high speed internet.

### Report to Business Recap

- Patrice mentioned that she and Annette went to the Commissioners Report to Business. Patrice also mentioned the following about the meeting:
  - Jim Thorpe makes every top list for best destination. We have brand recognition in the Poconos.
  - No County tax increase for the past 7 years but that might change.
  - Children and Youth and the correctional facility is where most of the budget goes to and unfunded mandates.
  - New voting system will come in effect fir 2020 primary elections.
  - County Re-assessment: July 1<sup>st</sup> they will send verified evaluation of the property re-assessment. Residents will have the option of appealing. By 2020 the new property taxes based on the re-assessment will be in effect.
- Annette mentioned more information about what was discussed during the report to business.
- There was general discussion about what was mentioned at the Report to Business.

### Old Business

#### Shop Local

- Patrice announced that there were a total of 510 activations so far. She mentioned that there was plenty of exposure about the program.
- Patrice distributed the 2018 Shop Local Survey Results.
- There was coverage from local media and press.
- There was general discussion about Shop Local and the Auto Valley Grand Opening.

### Announcements:

#### Discussion:

No Discussion

#### Public Comments:

**Next meeting date: February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 6:00pm. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.**