



### **Minutes: Economic Development Advisory Committee February 13, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Economic Development Advisory Committee was held on February 13, 2017 at 6:30 pm at the Schoonover Municipal Building with Chair Gina Bertucci presiding.

**Board Members:** Gina Bertucci, Carrie Wetherbee, Carl Wilgus, Beverly Brown, and Joseph Memoli (absent).

**Township Staff:** Supervisor Annette Atkinson, Robert Rengifo, Liaison and recording secretary, and Patrice Dume, Economic Development Manager.

**Township Residents/Guests:** Robert Loveinheim., Smithfield Township Supervisor, Vinny Bianchi, Petrica Tutuianu, new business owner .

Meeting called to order at 6:40 pm with Chair Gina Bertucci presiding.

### **Minutes and Agenda**

- Carl Wilgus motioned to accept minutes from the January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 ,Carrie Wetherbee seconded, Motion carried 4-0.
- Carle Wilgus motioned to accept the February 13<sup>th</sup> agenda, Carrie Wetherbee seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

### **Correspondence**

- Carl Wilgus brought different positive articles from the Pocono Record about Middle Smithfield Township and there was general discussion about the positive press the township received.

### **New Business**

#### **Support of the Restore America's Park Letter**

- Carl Wilgus explained how he is attempting to gain support to raise funding for the National Parks. He mentioned that with the new administration talking about new infrastructure, maybe some of that money can go to our parks. Annette mentioned that she and the other supervisors will support this movement, and sign the letter. Gina Bertucci mentioned that she is happy to craft a letter on the behalf of the committee.
- Motion by Gina Bertucci for the letter to be written, Carrie Wetherbee seconded the motion, motion passed 4-0

#### **Report of meeting with KW Commercial**

- Patrice Dume reported on the meeting of January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The meeting went well and the township continued their established relationship with these realtors. There will be a follow up meeting in the future.
- Gina Bertucci asked Beverly Brown to create a quarterly schedule of realtor meetings.
- There was a discussion on LERTA and a review of materials. Gina Bertucci mentioned a LERTA flyer; copies of the existing LERTA flyer were passed around..

- Alexandra, a new business owner in Middle Smithfield Township, introduced herself and her business. She mentioned perhaps creating a video of how the LERTA works.
- Gina Bertucci thanked Alexander and welcomed her to the committee.

### Committee Structure

- General discussion on committees, how they fit in with the township, everyone's roles, and then more specifics on the EDC Committee. Everyone reviewed the materials handed out.
  - Members who belong to other organizations, like Carl Wilgus, bring back National Parks and Visitor Bureau information and that is valuable.
  - Beverly Brown mentioned that if the committee had a calendar of what is going on in the area for the month, the committee members could help the staff in that way.
- Discussion on available properties in the township: Annette Atkinson suggested realtor.com, pmedc website, baxcommerical.com and other realtor websites that people usually go to, to find properties for sale. Gina Bertucci mentioned that she identified one of the contacts of LoopNet to see if they can give information on available commercial properties. Vinny Bianchi explained that really, every property and parcel is available, and to focus on the project not the parcel.

### Review of Committee goals

- Gina Bertucci asked how the committee can generate more leads for the township. General discussion followed. Gina Bertucci explained that a goal is to go out to the businesses to get the dialogue stated and leads to Patrice Dume and the township.
- Gina Bertucci mentioned that shop local made it as a brand.
- Carrie Wetherbee's business coalition idea as a goal was mentioned; more detail is needed to move forward
- Gina Bertucci mentioned that a possibility for the committee is to come up with another version of Mastodon Madness (scavenger hunt), or different event for the year of 2017.

### Old Business

#### Shop Local

- Robert Rengifo went over the shop local analytics, general feedback, and the different figures in the handout, which was distributed to the committee members. There was general discussion about the shop local analytics.

### Announcements

- Meeting with Chant Realtors on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 am, in Milford.
- Carl Wilgus, Carrie Wetherbee, and Beverly Brown volunteered to attend the meeting.

### Public Comments: none

Next meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2017.

Gina Bertucci made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm, Carl Wilgus seconded the motion.