

Middletown Economic Development Advisory Committee

Wednesday, October 13, 2010, 5:00 pm
Middletown Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Joseph A. Cirillo (exp. 1/13)_x_
7 Samson Lane
Middletown, RI 02842
jac@etal.uri.edu

Jody Sullivan__x_
Newport County Chamber of
Commerce – ex-officio
keith@newportchamber.com

Robert A. Connerney (exp.1/14)_x_
9 Renfrew Park
Middletown, RI, 02842
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Ron Wolanski, Town Planner – ex-
officio__x_
rwolanski@middletownri.com

Helen F. Flynn (exp. 1/13)_x_
57 Tuckerman Ave.
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haflynn@cox.net

Others present:

Rick McAuliffe

Liana Ferreira Fenton (exp.1/14)_x_
53 Berkeley Ave.
Middletown, RI 02842
Lianaff@aol.com

Tom Kowalczyk (exp. 1/13)__x_
9 Beechland Place
Middletown, RI, 02842
Thomas.Kowalczyk@associates.dhs
.gov

Robert M. Silva (exp. 1/11)__x_
1100 Aquidneck Ave.
Middletown, RI, 02842
rmsilva@silvalawgroup.com

Mike Hill (exp. 1/13) __x__

Bob Sylvia, Town Council Rep. ex-
officio____
rsylvia@mindspring.com

1. Congressional Appropriations – Mr. McAuliffe reviewed the meetings held in Washington D.C. with the congressional delegation on September 22nd. It appears that there is support for up to a \$1 million funding for stormwater infrastructure and \$120,000 for the Aquidneck Corporate Park. Appropriations may be addressed as part of budget bills to be considered after the election. Mr. Wolanski stated that the Aquidneck Corporate Park improvements are proceeding on schedule, with the bulk of the work expected to be complete by December.
2. RIDLT workforce training grant – Mr. McAuliffe stated that it appears likely that the SENEDIA proposal, which partners with the Newport County Chamber and MEDAC will be funded. An announcement is expected in late November.
3. USDA programs presentation – It was decided that MEDAC will host an event in early 2011 where USDA staff will be invited to provide a presentation of programs available to farmers. A subcommittee (Mr. Kowalczyk, Mr. Wolanski, Ms. Sullivan) was established to plan for the event.
4. RI Defense Expo – Mr. Silva stated that he and other MEDAC members will attend the expo to be held at the Navy War College.
5. FY2011 MEDAC activities – Mr. Wolanski provided a list of activities that have been discussed, including meeting with newly elected officials. Mr. McAuliffe discussed providing presentations to businesses regarding MEDAC activities. The power point presentation will be discussed at the November MEDAC meeting.
6. Other business:
 - a. Mr. Kowalczyk requested that Mr. Wolanski's title be recognized as Director of Planning & Economic Development.
 - b. Mr. Hill suggested that MEDAC might get involved with promoting an extension of the runways at Newport Airport. This would allow corporate jets to land at the airport. Mr. Wolanski stated that the recently RIAC master plan for the airport does not propose runway extension. Thought the process of producing the master plan, RIAC officials indicated that Quonset is being promoted for use by corporate jets.
 - c. Ms. Sullivan stated that the Chamber has received grant funding that will be used to develop an inventory of business properties in the county. She also asked that the committee consider potential revisions to the town's business tax incentive program to have it also apply to certain retail and hospitality businesses. Mr. Wolanski

questioned the need to incentivize such development since Middletown has not had trouble attracting such businesses. The incentive program is aimed at supporting and attracting defense and high-tech businesses that might not necessarily need to be in Middletown. Some members stated that attraction of a conference/hotel facility would be desirable, but incentives for retail development is not necessary.

- d. Mr. Wolanski stated that commercial real estate agent Steve Kirby has indicated willingness to provide an informational tour of commercial properties in Middletown. Mr. Wolanski will organize a tour based on MEDAC member interest.

By consensus the meetings adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald M. Wolanski
Director of Planning & Economic Development

