

Middletown Economic Development Advisory Committee

Wednesday, July 13, 2011, 5:00 pm

Middletown Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Joseph A. Cirillo (exp. 1/13)_x_
7 Samson Lane
Middletown, RI 02842
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Robert A. Connerney (exp.1/14)___
9 Renfrew Park
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prconnerney@verizon.net

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

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

Tom Kowalczyk (exp. 1/13)_x___
9 Beechland Place
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Thomas.Kowalczyk@associates.dhs.gov

Robert M. Silva (exp. 1/16)_x___
1100 Aquidneck Ave.
Middletown, RI, 02842
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Mike Hill (exp. 1/13) _____

Art Weber, Town Council Rep. ex-officio_x___

Chris Semonelli, Town Council Rep. ex-officio _x___

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

Ron Wolanski, Town Planner – ex-officio_x__
rwolanski@middletownri.com

Others present:

1. Enterprise Zone

Mr. Silva discussed the recent passage of legislation to create an enterprise zone in Middletown. He acknowledged the efforts of Sen. DiPalma.

2. Discuss status of MEDAC consultant and staffing.

Mr. Wolanski stated that the contract with Mayforth has expired. The Town administration is working with Mayforth to develop a proposal for a new contract based the reduced level of funding that is available. The proposal will be provided to MEDAC for review prior to being forwarded to the Town Council for consideration.

3. Discuss possible feasibility study for a Newport County convention center.

There was discussion that the town should seek grant funding, possibly from RIEDC to fund a feasibility study. Mr. Wolanski will contact RIEDC.

4. Discuss proposed modification to the town's economic development tax incentive program to address hospitality.

Mr. Silva recused himself from the discussion.

There was discussion of the need to research other tax incentive programs.

5. Potential MEDAC collaboration with Middletown Arts Festival.

Mr. Wolanski will contact the arts committee in order to place the MEDAC brochure on a table at the event.

6. Update on RIDLT training grant.

Mr. Wolanski provided an update on the work on the grant to SENEDIA.

7. Discuss possible MEDAC role in high school-business mentoring program.

Mr. Semonelli suggested that MEDAC could assist with outreach to local business to grow interest in the program.

8. Discuss outreach, including MEDAC website and schedule of outreach meetings to local businesses.

9. Update on West Main/Coddington Redevelopment Master Plan.

10. Update on Aquidneck Corporate Park improvement project.

Meeting adjourned 6pm

Respectfully submitted

Ronald M. Wolanski

Director of Planning & Economic Development

