

Middletown Economic Development Advisory Committee

Wednesday, February 8, 2012, 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)_x_

57 Tuckerman Ave.

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Liana Ferreira Fenton (exp.1/14)___

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Tom Kowalczyk (exp. 1/13)_x_

9 Beechland Place

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Robert M. Silva (exp. 1/16)_x__

1100 Aquidneck Ave.

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Mike Hill (exp. 1/13) __x__

Art Weber, Town Council Rep. ex-officio__x_

Chris Semonelli, Town Council Rep. ex-officio __

Jody Sullivan____

Newport County Chamber of Commerce – ex-officio

keith@newportchamber.com

Ron Wolanski, Town Planner – ex-officio__x__

rwolanski@middletownri.com

Others present:

Shawn Brown, Town Administrator

1. Recap of staff participation in January 23rd ,Small Business Roundtable with SBA Administrator Karen Mills, hosted by Congressman Cicilline.

Mr. Wolanski summarized his participation in the roundtable discussion.

2. Update on America’s Cup & Tall Ships events planning.

Mr. Brown stated that he is participating in meetings with planning committees planning the events. The America’s Cup event is focusing on sustainability and education for the on-shore activities. There may be an opportunity to co-sponsor a booth with the Chamber of Commerce. The Tall Ships event will also offer sponsorship opportunities.

Mr. Brown indicated that he would be updating the Town Council on the events.

3. GrowSmartRI proposed Economic Development legislation.

Mr. Wolanski described legislation proposed by GrowSmart RI to create a program similar to tax increment financing that would allow towns to exceed the state tax levy cap in specified areas to fund public improvements to foster economic development. Grow Smart is seek municipal support.

Committee members expressed support for the concept. They requested that a copy of the legislation be provided for review, following which a recommendation to the Town Council to support the bill would be considered.

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

Mr. Silva recused. He stated that his client has yet to provide proposed language to amend the program.

By consensus of the committee it was decided to table the matter and not include it on future agendas until new information is provided.

5. Update on RIDLT training grant.

Mr. Wolanski provided an update on the status of the SENEDIA project. The roll-out of the skills gap study will be provided at an upcoming presentation to state officials. MEDAC members will be invited to attend.

6. Update on BRAC 2005 Navy surplus lands reuse planning.

Mr. Wolanski provided an update on the process.

7. Other business.

8. Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted:

Ronald M. Wolanski

Planning Director