

Middletown Economic Development Advisory Committee

Wednesday, December 11, 2013, 5:00 pm

Middletown Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Joseph A. Cirillo (exp. 1/13)_X_

7 Samson Lane

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Robert A. Connerney (exp.1/14)_X_

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Liana Ferreira Fenton (exp.1/14)_X_

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Tom Kowalczyk (exp. 1/13)___

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

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**Mike Hill (exp. 1/13) __X__
6 Tuckerman Ave.
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VACANCY

**Chris Semonelli, Town Council Rep. ex-officio __
Barbara VonVillas, 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**

Shawn Brown, Town Administrator ____

The meeting was called to order at 5pm

1. Update - Regional economic development proposal in cooperation with the Newport County Chamber of Commerce and other county municipalities.

Ms. Sullivan stated that she is working to secure support from as many east bay communities as possible in order to match the grant offered by the Van Beuren Charitable Foundation. She will submit a letter in order to appear on the January 6th Town Council meeting.

Ms. Sullivan described the purpose of the regional economic development position, including the creation of a one-stop-shop to market and disseminate information to businesses potentially considering locating in the area.

2. Discuss MEDAC priorities and work plan for 2014

The committee members reviewed the MEDAC charge approved by the Town Council and discussed areas to focus on.

- Incentives - There was discussion of the potential to offer a tax incentive to certain types of hospitality businesses, such hotels that also include conference facilities.**
- Marketing activities will be handled on a regional bases, with local input.**
- Support for educating the workforce - Ms. Von Villas provided the committee with a copy of memo she and Councilor Adams sent to the Town Council, dated October 21, 2013. The memo provided results of assessment tests for local schools. Also provided was a sheet listing career-related offerings at a regional high school in Massachusetts.**

The meeting adjourned at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted

Ronald M. Wolanski, Planning Director