

Middletown Economic Development Advisory Committee

Wednesday, October 14, 2015, 4:30 pm
Middletown Town Hall, Town Council Chambers

Members Present:

John Bagwill
Joseph A. Cirillo
Rocky Kempenaar, Town Council
Tom Kowalczyk
David Lepore
Robert M. Silva, Chairman
Barbara VonVillas, Town Council
Ron Wolanski, Town Planner

Members absent:

Nick Coogan
Erin Donovan-Boyle, Newport County Chamber
Liana Ferreira Fenton

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Silva at 4:35pm

1. Introduction of new AIPC Exec. Director and update on status of AIPC activities.

Mr. Wolanski introduced Tom Ardito, director of the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission. Mr. Ardito reviewed the history of the AIPC and ongoing efforts, including transportation planning, sustainability, sea level rise/preparedness, and economic development in relation to the other activities. AIPC currently has one full-time and one part-time staff positions in addition to the director.

Mr. Ardito also discussed the interest on the island of securing better access to affordable high speed internet. AIPC would like to serve as a facilitator of this discussion for the region.

AIPC has also recently begun work on the Solarize Aquidneck effort, which aims to facilitate implementation of solar energy systems on private homes.

2. Approval of the minutes of the September 9, 2015 MEDAC meeting

Motion by Mr. Cirillo, seconded Mr. Kowalczyk, to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2015 meeting. **Vote:** 8-0-0.

3. Continued discussion of potential establishment of a business improvement district in the Atlantic Beach District, and potential projects.

Mr. Wolanski presented information requested during the prior meeting relating to potential cost to individual property owners for an effort to install underground utilities in the Atlantic Beach business district.

There was some concern expressed by members about the costs of the project, and how proceeding might impact the ability to promote creation of a business improvement district in the area. No action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted
Ronald M. Wolanski, Town Planner