

Middletown Economic Development Advisory Committee

Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 4:30 pm
Middletown Town Hall, Town Council Chambers

Members Present:

John Bagwill
Nick Coogan
Joseph A. Cirillo
Liana Ferreira Fenton
Rocky Kempenaar
Tom Kowalczyk
David Lepore
Barbara VonVillas, Town Council
Ron Wolanski, Town Planner

Members absent:

Erin Donovan-Boyle
Robert M. Silva, Chairman

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

1. Election of Officers

By consensus, this item was continued to the May MEDAC meeting.

2. Approval of the minutes of the March 9, 2016 MEDAC meeting.

Motion by Mr. Bagwill, seconded Ms. Fenton, to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2016 meeting. **Vote:** 6-0-0.

3. Review of the town's economic development incentive ordinance.

Mr. Wolanski provided a draft of the town's economic development incentive ordinance with potential revisions discussed during the last meeting highlighted.

There was consensus that the proposed revisions were acceptable.

By consensus the matter was continued to the May MEDAC meeting to continue discussion of potential revisions to broaden the applicability of the incentives.

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

Mr. Wolanski stated that during the prior discussion it was decided that representatives from the MEDAC would appear at an upcoming Town Council meeting to brief the Council on the concept of creating a business improvement district. If there is support to proceed, MEDAC would host a meeting of the business community to determine the level of interest. He provided a draft memo to the Town Council for MEDAC review.

Mr. Kempenaar recommended that the MEDAC simply inform the Town Council of the proposal at this time, but not request to appear on the Town Council's docket unless and until it is determined that there is interest in the business community.

Mr. Wolanski stated that he would discuss with Bob Silva about sending a communication to the Town Council.

5. Update on status of the town's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) application.

Mr. Wolanski stated that the draft TIP has yet to be release. He provide a list of projects that the town has submitted for state consideration. He will keep the MEDAC informed about the process going forward.

6. Update on Regional Economic Development

By consensus discussion of this matter was differred to the next regular MEDAC meeting.

7. Update on business outreach efforts

By consensus discussion of this matter was differred to the next regular MEDAC meeting.

8. Other business

Mr. Kowalczyk provided information about the Department of Homeland Security's efforts on science and technology innovation, including an upcoming meeting in Boston on May 24, 2016. The meeting will include Reginald Brothers, Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Science and Technology. He discussed an upcoming luncheon with the Chief Innovation Officer for the state of RI, Richard Culatta.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35pm.

Respectfully submitted

Ronald M. Wolanski, Town Planner