

Middletown Economic Development Advisory Committee

Wednesday, July 13, 2016, 4:30 pm

Middletown Town Hall, Town Council Chambers

Members Present:

John Bagwill
Joseph A. Cirillo, Vice Chair
Liana Ferreira Fenton
Rocky Kempenaar, Town Council Liaison
David Lepore
Barbara VonVillas, Town Council Liaison
Ron Wolanski, Town Planner

Members absent:

Nick Coogan
Erin Donovan-Boyle
Tom Kowalczyk
Robert M. Silva, Chairman

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

1. Discussion with Evan Smith, Discover Newport, regarding tourism improvement districts.

Mr. Smith stated that Discover Newport has an annual budget of approximately \$3.5 million. His goal is to increase funding to \$4 million. The proposed tourism improvement district, which would be funded through a \$1 per night fee for rooms at hotels would result in annual collections of approximately \$375,000 per year. He described the increased promotional and other activities that could be funded.

Mr. Kempenaar stated that he supports the concept, and believes that other hotel owners would also.

Mr. Smith stated that at this time he is simply informing the committee of his efforts. He is investigating the options for implementation of the district. He will seek formal town endorsement at a later time.

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

Mr. Wolanski stated that he and Mr. Silva attended a recent Town Council meeting to discuss the concept of the business improvement district and the committee's intent to reach out to the business community. The response from the Town Council was generally positive. The next step is for MEDAC to host a meeting to discuss the concept with business owners to determine the level of interest.

Mr. Bagwill suggested that the committee should work on a presentation. By consensus, the committee requested that Mr. Wolanski provide a draft presentation for review during the next MEDAC meeting.

3. Approval of the minutes of the June 8, 2016 MEDAC meeting.

Motion by Ms. Fenton, seconded by Mr. Lepore, to approve the minutes of June 8, 2016. By unanimous vote the motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40pm.

Respectfully submitted
Ronald M. Wolanski, Town Planner