

## **Middletown Economic Development Advisory Committee**

Wednesday, August 10, 2016, 4:30 pm

Middletown Town Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

### **Members Present:**

John Bagwill

Joseph A. Cirillo, Vice Chair

Nick Coogan

Erin Donovan-Boyle

Liana Ferreira Fenton

David Lepore

Robert M. Silva, Chairman

Ron Wolanski, Town Planner

### **Members absent:**

Tom Kowalczyk

Rocky Kempenaar, Town Council Liaison

Barbara VonVillas, Town Council Liaison

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

### **1. Approval of the minutes of the July 13, 2016 MEDAC meeting.**

Motion by Mr. Cirillo, seconded by Ms. Fenton, to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2016 meeting. Vote: 8-0-0.

### **2. Continued discussion of potential revisions to the town's economic development incentive ordinance.**

There was continued discussion possibility of expanding the current incentive ordinance to hospitality businesses, including larger hotels. Questions were raised about the potential impact on the tax base and on other taxpayers. Mr. Wolanski was asked to get some input from the tax assessor on this issue.

There was discussion of looking at a building improvement incentive, which would encourage commercial property owners to invest in building and site improvements. Mr. Wolanski was asked to provide examples of such programs.

Discussion was continued to the September 14, 2016 MEDAC meeting.

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

Mr. Wolanski provided a draft PowerPoint presentation that could be used for the proposed meeting with business owners. Mr. Silva requested that members review the presentation and provide comments.

Discussion was continued to the September 14, 2016 MEDAC meeting.

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

Mr. Wolanski stated that the final TIP has yet to be released, but he is hopeful that the town's requested additions to the project list for Aquidneck Ave. will be included. Town staff recently met RIDOT officials to discuss opportunities for modifying the project list to ensure that the town's highest priorities are included. He will update the committee once the final TIP is released.

**5. Update on status of regional economic development efforts**

Ms. Donovan discussed a recent stakeholder meeting hosted by the Chamber with the consultant team from TIP, Strategies, who developed the plan and framework for establishing a regional economic development office. Focus now is on the governance structure and other details needed to establish the office and hire staff. A report provided by the facilitator of the stakeholder meeting will be available in the near future.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted  
Ronald M. Wolanski, Town Planner