

DRAFT

Middletown Economic Development Advisory Committee

Wednesday, June 14, 2017, 4:30 pm

Middletown Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Members Present:

John Bagwill

Joseph A. Cirillo, Vice Chair

Erin Donovan-Boyle, Chamber of Commerce ex-officio

Liana Ferreira Fenton

David Lepore

Robert M. Silva, Chairman

Barbara VonVillas, Town Council ex-officio

Ron Wolanski, Town Planner

Members absent:

Nick Coogan

Tom Kowalczyk

Dennis Turano, Town Council ex-officio

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Silva at 4:30pm

1. Approval of the minutes of the May 10, 2017 MEDAC meeting.

Motion by Mr. Cirillo, seconded by Ms. Fenton, to approved the minutes of the May 10, 2017 meeting. **Vote:** 6-0-2 with Ms. VonVillas and Ms. Donovan-Boyle abstaining.

2. Update on status of design of roadway improvements in the Atlantic Beach district.

Mr. Wolanski stated that the contract with engineering firm VHB has been approved by the Town Council. Work will begin with an existing conditions survey. The renderings will be completed during the early stages of the project. The VHB team will conduct a site walk with town officials to identify the best locations for the renderings.

Mr. Cirillo, Mr. Bagwill and Ms. Donovan-Boyle asked to be included in the site walk once it is scheduled.

3. Update on status of investigation of potential TIF funding for improvements in the Atlantic Beach district.

Mr. Wolanski stated that he has provided the requested data necessary for MuniCap, the town's tax increment financing (TIF) consultant, to complete the initial feasibility analysis for a potential TIF district in the Atlantic Beach District. MuniCap has stated that the report should be available in the next couple of weeks and will be provided to MEDAC members for discussion during the July meeting.

4. Continued discussion of potential revisions to the town's economic development tax incentive ordinance.

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Mr. Silva requested that this matter be continued to the July meeting so that all members are able to participate in the discussion. By consensus the matter was continued to the July 12, 2017 MEDAC meeting.

5. Update on status of regional economic development efforts.

Ms. Donovan-Boyle stated that the Chamber of Commerce has secured adequate public and private sector funding to allow the hiring of a regional economic development director to be housed in the Chamber offices. Funding from the participating municipalities, private companies and non-profits will total approximately \$220,000 for the first year of the program. This will allow for creation of a website to assist companies with site selection, and will begin the regional marketing and business retention efforts.

Mr. Silva suggested that funding support from the state should also be sought.

Ms. Fenton asked if the effort will include creation of a workforce pipeline for local companies. Ms. Donovan-Boyle stated that this is something to be looked at in the future.

Mr. Bagwill asked about the status of the effort to provide fiber broadband internet access to the island. Mr. Silva stated that the Town has entered into an agreement with RIDOT that will make fiber infrastructure available to the town. Mr. Wolanski stated that details of how access will be provided to businesses and residents have yet to be determined.

6. Update on business outreach efforts.

Ms. Donovan-Boyle stated that the Chamber, and the new regional economic development director will be reaching out to the local business community to identify needs.

There was discussion of the need to look at incentives offered by other communities. Ms. Donovan-Boyle stated that Middletown is ahead of most towns in having a codified incentive program.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Ronald M. Wolanski, Town Planner