

Middletown Economic Development Advisory Committee

Wednesday, September 13, 2017, 4:30 pm
Middletown Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Members Present:

John Bagwill
Joseph A. Cirillo, Vice Chair
Nick Coogan
Liana Ferreira Fenton
David Lepore
Robert M. Silva, Chairman
Barbara VonVillas, Town Council ex-officio
Ron Wolanski, Town Planner

Members absent:

Erin Donovan-Boyle, Chamber of Commerce ex-officio
Tom Kowalczyk
Dennis Turano

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

1. Approval of the minutes of the August 9, 2017 MEDAC meeting.

Motion by Mr. Cirillo, seconded by Ms. Fenton, to approved the minutes of the August 9, 2017 meeting. **Vote:** 8-0-0.

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

Mr. Wolanski provided the latest draft of potential revisions to the ordinance. He described the areas needing additional conversation. There was conversation of some of the potential revisions.

Mr. Silva recommended that the matter be continued to the next MEDAC meeting so that all members are able to participate. By consensus the matter was continued to the October 11, 2017 MEDAC meeting.

3. Discussion of MEDAC webpage update.

Mr. Wolanski stated that the MEDAC website had recently been moved on to the town website. He invited input on any revisions or additional information that MEDAC members would like to see on the webpage.

Ms. Fenton suggested that an application for use on mobile devices should be considered to make information more readily available. This would be more convenient than asking someone to use the web page. Mr. Wolanski stated that he would talk with the town's IT director about this possibility.

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

Mr. Wolanski stated that the town's consultant, VHB, is in the process of completing base mapping and will be preparing initial concept plans and renderings for review by the end of September. If available, materials will be provided for review during the October 11th MEDAC meeting.

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

Mr. Wolanski stated that the town's consultant, MuniCap, has been provided with the final remaining information needed to complete the report. Once completed, the report will be provided to the MEDAC for review, perhaps during the October 11th meeting.

6. Update on status of regional economic development efforts.

Mr. Wolanski stated that the Chamber of Commerce has advertised a request for proposals for a person or firm to establish the regional economic development office, to be housed in the Chamber of Commerce offices on Valley Rd. Proposals are due on September 20th. They will be reviewed by a selection committee, on which Mr. Wolanski has been asked to serve. An update on the selection process will be provided during the October 11th MEDAC meeting.

7. Other business.

Mr. Wolanski was asked to inquire about the status of the town's potential use of RIDOT fiber optic lines to provide high-speed internet access to businesses and residents in town.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Ronald M. Wolanski, Town Planner