

**Middletown Economic Development Advisory Committee
Minutes of Wednesday, March 14, 2018, 4:30 pm
Middletown Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room**

Members Present:

John Bagwill
David Lepore
Nicholas Coogan
Liana Ferreira-Fenton
Robert Silva, Chairman
Ronald Wolanski

Members absent:

Joseph A. Cirillo
Erin Donovan-Boyle
Tom Kowalczyk
Barbara VonVillas
Dennis Turano

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Silva at approximately 4:40pm

- 1. Approval of the minutes of the February 14, 2018 MEDAC meeting, motion by Mr. Coogan, seconded by Ms. Fenton. Vote 6-0-0.**
- 2. Discussion of possible banners and other promotional efforts for the Two-mile Corner Area.**

Mr. Wolanski stated that the Town Administrator has suggested that the town consider a business promotional effort, such as banners on poles, in the 2-mile corner area.

There was discussion of the Atlantic Beach District being an example of a defined area for promotional activities. There was discussion of the possible limits of a program in the 2-mile corner area. One-mile corner to Valley Rd. was suggested.

By consensus the Mr. Wolanski was asked to get more input from the Town Administrator.

- 3. Update on status of Atlantic Beach District roadway design improvements.**

Mr. Wolanski stated that the Town Council requested that the Planning Board host a public workshop meeting to present the concept plans for the roadway improvements. That meeting is scheduled for April 30, 2018 at 6pm.

Mr. Bagwill suggested that there needs to be reference to the 2007 Atlantic Beach District Master Plan.

Mr. Silva suggested that during the public meeting there will be need for limited discussion of anticipated funding options for the implementation of improvements, including possible state transportation funding and TIF funding.

Ms. Fenton asked if private foundation funding might be available. Mr. Bagwill review prior discussions with Newport Preservation Society.

Mr. Silva volunteered to make contact with an official at National Grid regarding getting cost estimates for undergrounding of utilities lines.

Mr. Wolanski was asked to provide a draft agenda for the public workshop for the April 11th MEDAC meeting.

4. Update on status of tax increment finance (TIF) discussion.

Mr. Silva referenced the legislation pending before the General Assembly to revise the process for establishing a TIF district.

Mr. Wolanski noted that the town administration is proceeding with the process the establish a TIF district under the current statute. The first step is to establish a redevelopment agency. This will be brought to the Town Council for consideration in April.

Mr. Wolanski was asked to provide additional information to the MEDAC as it becomes available.

5. Update on status of regional economic development efforts.

Mr. Wolanski reference a recent working group meeting with Fourth Economy, the firm contracted by the Chamber of Commerce to establish the regional office. A new website has been established for the organization. He asked MEDAC members to review the site and provide comments. Fourth Economy is in the process of hiring a person to staff the regional economic development office, located at the Chamber of Commerce.

6. The meeting was adjourned at 5:35pm

Respectfully submitted:
Ron Wolanski, Town Planner