

**Middletown Economic Development Advisory Committee
Minutes of Thursday, April 19, 2018, 4:30 pm
Middletown Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room**

Members Present:

John Bagwill
Joseph A. Cirillo
Liana Ferreira-Fenton
Tom Kowalczyk
Robert Silva, Chairman
Dennis Turano
Barbara VonVillas
Ronald Wolanski

Members absent:

Erin Donovan-Boyle
David Lepore
Nicholas Coogan

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

1. Approval of the minutes of the March 14, 2018 MEDAC meeting,

Motion by Mr. Bagwill, seconded by Ms. Fenton. Vote 8-0-0.

2. Discussion of possible banners and other promotional efforts for the Two-mile Corner Area.

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

Mr. Bagwill suggested that an annual event to promote the area could be considered. There was discussion of that an event could promote the entire town. The venue, timing, and other details would have to be considered.

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. MEDAC members are invited to attend. He provided the draft agenda for the meeting.

There was discussion of the scope of the project. RIDOT is currently working on design of intersection improvements. Mr. Turano stated that the project should include the undergrounding of utilities.

It was suggested that handouts or boards showing the renderings be made available at the meeting. There should be additional outreach to the business owners in the area. Mr. Wolanski stated that the presentation will also be available following the meeting.

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

Mr. Bagwill discussed the difference between the current TIF statute, and the proposed legislation currently before the General Assembly. Under the proposed legislation, towns would no longer need to establish a redevelopment agency prior to creating a TIF. There was discussion that this was a significant issue for the Town Council, which tabled the discussion of the TIF in a recent meeting.

Mr. Bagwill stated that it is important that the town move forward as soon as possible to ensure that the TIF can be based on the most advantageous property valuations. He stated that the TIF would have to be adopted by June 30th of this year. There was discussion that the Town Administrator is working with the town's bond counsel to determine the target dates.

Mr. Silva suggested that the committee await additional information from the Town Administrator. In the meantime, he will make contacts with members of the General Assembly in order to promote and track the proposed legislation.

5. Update on status of regional economic development efforts.

Mr. Wolanski stated that the Chamber of Commerce and its consultant, Fourth Economy, along with the working group of participating agencies, has met recently to work on finalizing the first-year work program for the regional economic development office. The selection of the staff person that will execute the program is nearing completion.

6. Chamber of Commerce Job Fair.

Mr. Kowalczyk briefly discussed the recent job fair held by the Chamber of Commerce, which he attended. He will provide more information during the next MEDAC meeting.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 5:35pm

Respectfully submitted:
Ron Wolanski, Town Planner