

# NORTH SMITHFIELD INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2008

PRESENT: Michael R. Dowling; Robert E. Nault; Kenneth L. Peloquin; Alfred S. Puccetti; Bernice F. Salzberg

ALSO: Robert B. Lowe, Town Administrator; Michelle M. Godin of New England Economic Development Services, Inc.; and Laurent Peloquin

ABSENT: None

## Call to Order

The tour commenced at approximately 5:40 PM.

## Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## Tour: Banneker

Cheryl W. Snead, President and CEO of Banneker, introduced herself and welcomed all in attendance. Snead stated that she graduated from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst with a degree in mechanical engineering. While a college student, Snead said she was inspired by Benjamin Banneker, the first African American scientist who is credited with constructing the first wooden clock that struck time.

Snead explained the origin of her business, stating that it started as a machine shop in 1981 and transitioned into a worldwide supply chain management company known today as Banneker. Snead indicated that Banneker relocated from Lincoln to North Smithfield approximately 3-years ago, and said that the various municipal departments (i.e. fire, police, and inspection) and the landlord (SAM-MAN Realty) have been very supportive. Snead reported that Banneker recently extended its 250,000 square foot lease at 582 Great Road to the year 2015, where the worldwide headquarters for Banneker will remain as the company continues to grow. According to Snead, Banneker also has facilities in Indianapolis, Indiana; Los Angeles, California; Dallas, Texas; and Seekonk, Massachusetts. Snead said there are 28-employees at the North Smithfield facility and a total of 60-employees company wide. Snead said she hopes to one day have 100 employees at the North Smithfield site. It was mentioned by Snead that all employees participate in extensive training programs and are well paid.

Snead spoke proudly about the local, national and international awards received by Banneker. Most recently, Snead said Banneker received the 2008 National Subcontractor of the Year Award at a ceremony where she met President George W. Bush.

While touring the facility, Snead pointed to various improvements/investments made by Banneker in the building for both operational and security purposes. Lastly, Snead commended the efforts of the Branch Village Task Force. Specifically, Snead mentioned that the attraction of restaurants to the area would be a welcomed amenity.

## Adjournment

The tour concluded at 6:05 PM, at which time everyone thanked Snead for her time and the opportunity to learn about her business in North Smithfield.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth L. Peloquin  
Chairman