

**Economic Development Committee Meeting  
Town of Bridgeville  
Minutes  
Wednesday, November 16, 2016 9:00 a.m.  
Town Hall Meeting Room**

**Attending:** Deborah Brown, Jack Dalton, Harris Mager, Brenda Rambo, Jeff, Tull, Ruth Skala

**Absent:** John Brodeur, Ralph Root, Charles Smith, Lawrence Tassone

**Approval of Minutes:** minutes from the October 19, 2016 meeting were approved

**Market Street Façade Grant Approvals:** Ruth Skala reported that the Commissioners approved, at a special meeting on October 19, the four grant recipients that the EDC had chosen: Layton's Hardware, Bridgeville Building & Loan, Bridgeville Emporium and Bridgeville Senior Center. The Town sent letters notifying the recipients and will monitor their progress toward completion of each project. The committee discussed John Brodeur's idea of designing a small symbol/sign indicating that a business has received a façade improvement grant that could be displayed in the window. Jack Dalton volunteered to research the idea and Ruth promised to send him some of the town's branding logos.

**Historic Tax Credits Meeting:** December 1, 7:00 p.m. Joan Larrivee will be speaking at the Bridgeville Library. The town has promised to advertise the event by e-mail and Facebook. Deborah Brown has set up this meeting, has placed posters in prominent places around town and has mailed the flyer to historic property owners.

**Parade:** based on Brenda Rambo's suggestion the EDC will be participating in the Bridgeville Christmas parade on December 17. The plan is for Brenda, Deborah, Jack and Ruth to march in the parade carrying the committee's banner and distributing rack cards advertising Bridgeville. John Brodeur will participate if he can ride. Jeff Tull suggested we give away several (5-10 TBD) Bridgeville license plates to selected adults along the parade route. The idea was approved. The EDC also has to provide two pounds of candy to be distributed by Santa.

**License Plates:** at this time there are about five remaining license plates. John Brodeur has carefully supervised this project and is willing to continue. Even though sales have slowed, the committee decided it was most cost effective to order another fifty plates at a cost of \$4.10 per plate. The main purpose for the sale of these plates is to increase awareness of Bridgeville as part of the branding effort. Profits made will be redistributed as grants. Ruth will contact Phillips Signs to place the order for fifty license plates.

**Small Business Saturday November 26:** Ruth reported that she sent an application to the National Main Street Center for Bridgeville to participate in Shop Small Business Saturday. The application went late and did not offer the detail of town events planned for that date supporting the effort since none had been planned. It was rejected. This is something that should be carefully planned for November 2017 and an effort should be made for the town to participate.

**Open Discussion on Committee's Future:** Jack Dalton indicated he will be resigning January 1, 2017.

Ruth asked if anyone is interested in taking over the Chairperson position as she would like to remain on the committee but not as chairperson. No committee member volunteered. She then asked if the committee should continue.

Jeff Tull stated that good things have been accomplished. In his research of successful towns, he could not find anything comparable to Bridgeville. Part of the challenge is the mixed residential/commercial nature of Market Street. He feels we need a drawing card. At one time it was thought that Rapa Scapple could fill this role. The concept of staying open late one night, such as Thursday, should be encouraged for the few businesses that currently exist. A seasonal, weekly farmers' market with food trucks is an event that would attract people. Jeff thought it could be held in front of the Church Mouse and expand into the area behind. He volunteered to research and spearhead the project.

Ruth mentioned that the state effort regarding Historic Byways wants to include Bridgeville. Some of the highlights would be TS Smith, the Sudler House, the old Fire House/Historical Society Museum and several other locations. The Byway committee chair has promised to contact Bridgeville.

Brenda Rambo thinks the EDC has a purpose and should continue. Possibly the meeting time is an impediment for some members. Ruth mentioned that we have tried other times and locations. The 9:00 a.m. slot at town hall seems to be the most successful. Jeff suggested that we meet every other month. The consensus was that it would be helpful if the town manager and/or a Commission member attend the monthly EDC meeting. Ruth stated that there is lots more work to do and the momentum has just started.

Jeff suggested that a paid town staff person for economic development would be the best solution to accomplish the stated goals.

The group decided that Ruth should send out an e-mail asking current members if they want to continue on the EDC and if they know anyone else that would be interested in participating.

Since this meeting was so inconclusive, it was decided that a December meeting is imperative. Due to the holiday rush, the meeting was moved up a week and will be held on **Wednesday, December 14 at 9:00 a.m. in town hall.**

Respectfully submitted, Ruth Skala, Chairperson, Economic Development Committee