

**Economic Development Committee Meeting
Town of Bridgeville
Minutes
Wednesday, October 19, 2016 9:00 a.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room**

Attending: Deborah Brown, Jack Dalton, Brenda Rambo, Ralph Root, Ruth Skala

Absent: John Brodeur, Harris Mager, Charles Smith, Lawrence Tassone, Jeff Tull

Minutes: the minutes from August 17 and September 21, 2016 were approved.

Market Street Façade Improvement Grants: Chairperson Ruth Skala provided seven members of the EDC with six applications that were received for Market Street Façade Improvement. The committee members were asked to read the applications and rank them from one to six. The first four would be awarded façade grants up to \$1,500 each.

During the process Ralph Root stated that " we were not following the Conceptual Vision Plan. In the plan it was suggested that the town undertake façade improvement in a cohesive manner as planned by an architect. The way the EDC has approached this, exteriors are not going to match. He said that possibly in hindsight we should have followed the plan". Both Brenda Rambo and Ruth Skala expressed the opinion that the commercial storefronts are so scattered amongst residences it would be difficult to have the same facades throughout Market Street. Also the cost of implementation of the plan suggested by Muldrow Associates would be prohibitive for Bridgeville. By proceeding with our current grants, we will see improvements quickly.

The ranking was as follows: 1. Layton's Hardware, 2. Bridgeville Building & Loan, 3. Bridgeville Emporium, 4. Bridgeville Senior Center, 5. Downtown Alley, 6. 104 Market Street (Mrs. Beulah). It was agreed that 1 thru 4 would be recommended to the Commissioners to receive grants. The work at Downtown Alley has already been completed and the work requested at 104 is for interior work.

[The Commissioners met at a special meeting at 10:30 after the EDC meeting and approved the recommendations.]

Christmas Parade: Brenda Rambo suggested that members of the EDC march in the Bridgeville Parade on December 17. She will coordinate the effort. Ruth promised to poll committee members to see who is willing to participate.

Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits: Deborah Brown reported that Joan Larrivee, Delaware State Tax Credit Program Manager, will be speaking at the Bridgeville Library at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 1.

Funding: Ruth read a report from Harris Mager who was unable to attend as to available economic development funding. Some of the sources are as follows: SBA, Delaware Community Transportation funds for sidewalks if the town had ownership [Ruth reported that the town

manager told the Commissioners at the October Board meeting that his survey of other towns indicated that sidewalk responsibility remains with property owners], Delaware Downtown Development Districts, USDA Revolving Loan Fund. The EDC recommended that Bridgeville pursue DDD designation.

Waste water: Jack Dalton reported that he was advised not to pursue the subject as it is the responsibility of town staff and Commissioners.

License Plates: John Brodeur advised that there are eleven license plates remaining after Apple Scapple. Five were placed at Downtown Alley and six at Town Hall. It was suggested that we reorder a small number so that there will be available inventory.

Activities: Brenda Rambo said that she is no longer recommending a House Tour due to the current environment. Ruth Skala advised she would look into advertising Small Business Saturday "Shop Small" on November 26.

It was agreed that the November meeting would be an EDC Planning Session.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, November 16 at 9:00 a.m. at Town Hall

Respectfully submitted, Ruth Skala, Chairperson, Economic Development Committee