

Economic Development Committee Meeting
Town of Bridgeville
Minutes
Wednesday, January 18, 2017 9:30 a.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

Attending: Deborah Brown, Sue Grenier, Richard Grinnell, Harris Mager, Ruth Skala, Jim Speegle

Absent: John Brodeur, Brenda Rambo, Ralph Root, Charles Smith, Lawrence Tassone, Jeff Tull **NOTE:** Jack Dalton has officially resigned from the EDC effective December 31, 2016

Approval of Minutes: minutes of the December 14, 2016 meeting were approved

Commission President Pat Correll briefly addressed the committee. She wanted to reassure the committee that it has the Commissioners' support (a concern recorded in the EDC's December meeting minutes). She also said that she was fully responsible for any questions about the branding banners. Her seasonal concern arose from community feedback that she had received. She would like to see different banners in different seasons. She also feels that it is important to remain positive and she would like to see the town's tax base increase through economic development. Further discussion would take place later that morning at the Commissioners' Workshop.

License Plates: although unable to attend the meeting John Brodeur filed an update report indicating that we have forty-six Bridgeville license plates to sell. They are currently available in Town Hall and Downtown Alley.

Historic Tax Credits: Deborah Brown plans to meet with Jerry Butler now that the holidays are over. She will explain the available tax credits and encourage Jerry to share information with historic district property owners when they chose to make improvements.

2017 Main Street Conference: This year's Main Street Conference is being held in Pittsburgh May 1-3. The early bird registration rate is effective until January 31. Ruth asked if any EDC members would like to attend. The conference is extremely helpful and Bridgeville should be represented. Costs will be reimbursed. No one volunteered at this time.

Façade Grant Update: Ruth Skala indicated that the Bridgeville Building and Loan as well as Layton's Hardware had completed their grant work and been paid \$1,500 each. The Bridgeville Emporium owner Tim Curry requested an extension and is completing multiple projects to satisfy the grant. There has been no response from the Senior Center. The committee discussed John Brodeur's ideas for signage to be displayed in the front window of grant recipients. It was decided that the town logo prominently displaying Town of Bridgeville that John chose would be used and the sign, approximately the size of a computer tablet, would read "Downtown Improvement Grant Participant". The EDC would not be mentioned as the town is the sponsor. John will bring several samples to the next meeting.

Farmers Market Promotion Program: Ruth received information from the DEDO office regarding grant money available toward promotion of a Farmer's Market that she forwarded to Jeff Tull. Jeff plans to pursue the idea of a farmers market in Bridgeville. The committee discussed possible locations and the feasibility of such a project.

Historic ByWay: Rich Grinnell indicated he just heard from Michael Hahn regarding the Delaware Heritage ByWay Program. It appears that Bridgeville is not included in the preliminary report. Rich will further pursue the possibility of Bridgeville participating

EDC Budget Balance: Now that we are in the second half of the town's fiscal year, the EDC needs to review its expenditures to date and its budget balance. There is an adequate balance to initiate several projects.

- Harris Mager will meet with RAPA/Scrapple staff to see if the old railroad station, now a freezer unit, could display a Town of Bridgeville railroad sign.
- Deborah Brown will call CGI to gather information about the business sponsored banners they offer. Their banners are being utilized by Seaford.
- A discussion ensued about incentive funding to attract businesses to downtown instead of another round of façade grants.
- Vacant business space on Market Street could be advertised along with the type of businesses we are encouraging with the incentive grants.
- Some funds can be used for conference attendance and/or training of committee members.

Discussion with Commissioners: Deborah Brown, Richard Grinnell, Sue Grenier, Harris Mager, Jim Speegle and Ruth Skala attended the Commissioners' Workshop immediately following the EDC meeting. There was a discussion as to the role of the EDC, appointment of its members and the size of the committee. The Commission decided that terms of office were not necessary. All concerned Bridgevillians should be able to participate as long as names and short biographies of committee members are presented to Town Hall. The committee chairperson will receive formal approval by the Board. The Commissioners' fully support the EDC's efforts and would like to see the Strategic Plan and the Implementation Strategy Board followed to completion. The idea of incentive grants to encourage new businesses was well received.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. Town Hall

Respectfully submitted, Ruth Skala, Chairperson, Economic Development Committee