

Economic Development Committee Update

March, 2019

1. Members of the EDC committee attended a commission meeting for a DelDOT presentation on art for traffic control boxes, crosswalks and road intersections.
2. Contacted Rick Ferrell of Retail Market Answers LLC to discuss potential ways to move forward with attracting new businesses into Bridgeville. Rick has done extensive work within Delaware for the Main Street Program and has also worked with Bridgeville, Smyrna and other towns. He suggested that the first step would be to apply to be a designated Downtown Development District (DDD) that was opened up again this year. Attended a meeting on Monday, March 4 in Dover with Jesse for a presentation by the state on the DDD application.
3. Jesse is waiting for quotes from vendors for the Flagpole/Memorial area next to Town Hall. The committee in discussing the implementation of a memorial brick program within the Flagpole/Memorial area.
4. The committee decided to present the 8 rocking chairs from the painting contest at the first Fabulous Fourth Friday. The High School and Middle School are still moving forward with their painting.
5. Talked with Jesse and the installation of the new town entry signs should be moving forward soon.
6. Two members of the EDC will be attending the Main Street Conference this year.
7. The town has sold out of Bridgeville license plates so we have ordered 50 more.
8. Attended the Delaware Partners in Progress meeting to determine their status and how Bridgeville might be able to utilize this new Delaware program. (see attached for notes from the meeting)
9. Met with Jesse and CGI Communications to discuss the re-production of the video of Bridgeville posted on the town's website. A plan has been set to complete the production effort, tentatively scheduling their shoot during the first Fabulous Fourth Friday so as to incorporate the FFF event. The team has submitted changes to the current script which we will be editing and sending to CGI after approval by Jesse. Should note, that we would want at least one of the commissioners to do a 5-10 second introduction to one of the video segments.
10. The committee is working on doing an ad for the Chambers 2019 Visitors guide.
11. Aliceanne has been contacting vendors about FFF and also finding websites and social media sites to begin advertising for the events.

Richard Grinnell
Chairperson, Economic Development Committee

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Notes from the Delaware Partners in Progress meeting

Here are the notes I took at the DPP meeting. This was basically a road show to explain what the DPP is and what it's doing. (To recap, the DPP was created to replace the state run Delaware Economic Development Office (DeDo). It is a partnership between Delaware businesses and the state government. It is funded by a combination of private business and government funds.)

DPP actually started in August 2017 and is a 501c3 entity.

39 private investors provided \$1.3 million dollars for 3 years.

What the DPP does:

- Attraction of new companies
- Expansion of existing businesses
- Works with new, emerging sectors
- Helps with expanding state talent pool and supporting employers with their workforce needs.

They have a \$3.4 million dollar a year budget split between private investors, the state, plus some other (?).

Their focus is on:

- Science and technology
- Agriculture and Food
- Healthcare and Education
- Business and Finance
- Manufacturing and Logistics

They currently have 49 projects in progress.

Two important things they said site planners look for are extended utilities and a quick response to site readiness questions. Site planners have said companies have a quick turnaround of 6-12 months.

At the meeting they were quick to say they can help all size businesses and towns, you just have to ask them. (Not how this is working in actuality).

During the meeting I heard no mention of the Main Street Program. They did indicate they are working with a team (?) from Seaford.

The website is www.deprosperitypartnership.com

.....Richard