

Warren County Economic Development Committee (WCEDC)

Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2016

Chair Schultheis called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM.

Roll Call:

Present: Scott Anderson, Eve Azar, Mitchell Jones, Andrea Kirchuk, Chris Maier, Chair Betty Schultheis, Herman Shoemaker, Linda Stettler, Todd Tersigni, and Freeholder Director Jason Sarnoski

Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood and recited the Pledge.

Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Stettler made a motion, seconded Mr. Shoemaker, to approve the March 10, 2016 minutes with two spelling corrections for “Tetra Tech.” All in favor, with Chair Schultheis abstaining.

Welcome and Introductions:

Tetra Tech Consultants
EDC members
Members of the public

Tetra Tech Presentation:

Ms. Gina Behnfeldt distributed handouts and conducted a presentation regarding the background, organizational chart, team experience, and the work plan for Tetra Tech’s Warren County Economic Development services.

Freeholder Sarnosky thanked Mr. Anderson and Ms. Kirchuk for serving on the Interview Committee.

Chair Schultheis stated that the EDC is excited to have Tetra Tech begin implementation.

Committee Reports:

Status of Grant, Corey Tierney:

- USDA Grant – Rural Business Development Grant submitted two weeks ago with a focus on our agriculture industry.

Tourism, Mr. Art Charlton:

- National Geographic Project – website launched with events in three states. There is still time to submit a business to be added to the site.
- The explore.warren.org website will be launched in the next few weeks.
- The NJ Tourism Cooperative Marketing Grant will be submitted in the next few weeks.
- Please continue to forward the newsletter to interested parties.

Farm Art Update, Freeholder Sarnoski

- Group from Wisconsin visiting Warren County to give advice next month. Plan to implement next spring.

Newly Established Subcommittees, Chair Schultheis

- Three new subcommittees:
 - Public Policy Subcommittee – moved from the WC Chamber. Focus on legislative level issues.
 - Foundation Subcommittee – Members: Ms. Sarah Brelvi and Chair Schultheis. Focus on attracting businesses to the County and organizing events.
 - Liaison Subcommittee – liaison with Tetra Tech

Ms. Stettler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Maier, to approve the Liaison Subcommittee. Postpone approval of Legislative and Foundation Subcommittees until the June meeting.

Old Business:

Route 31 Shuttle, Dave Dech:

- Start-up scheduled for June 6, 2016. Dollar Store will have parking. Suggested fare is \$2.

WC Map:

- Mr. Maier, Ms. Kirchuk and Mr. Charlton were commended on the WC map.

Goals for 2016:

- These will be established by Tetra Tech

Potential Forums for 2016:

- Tetra Tech will conduct stakeholder meetings in the future.

Open Comments from the Public:

Public attendees present: Elizabeth Griggs, Sarah Brelvi, D. Benson, Joseph Pryor, Donald Hogan, Richard Cotton, Paul Avery, Rick Cornely, Ingrid Gray, Ralph Fiore, D. Fitzgerald, John Kennedy, and Dave Dech

Discussion - Towns can help attract new businesses when they express appreciation by offering incentives. Also, it would be helpful to assign a point person to cut through governmental red tape. Another idea is to have an established business owner mentor a new business owner.

Close Comments from the Public

New Business:

Mr. Donald Hogan from the Department of Labor and Workforce Development announced that a College and Career Resource Fair has been organized by the Phillipsburg Police Department from 9 am to 3 pm on June 9, 2016 at Walters Park. Employer response has been excellent.

Chair Schultheis thanked everyone for attending and encouraged all to attend the June meeting.

Next Meeting:

June 9, 2016 at 8:00 AM.

Adjournment:

Ms. Stettler, seconded by Mr. Tersigni, made a motion to adjourn at 9:15 AM.