

Warren County Economic Development Committee (WCEDC)

Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2017

Chair Schultheis called to order the Meeting at 8:00 AM.

Roll Call:

Present: Eve Azar, Mitchell Jones, Andrea Kirchuk, John Kruk, Chair Betty Schultheis, Herman Shoemaker, Linda Stettler, Freeholder Jason Sarnoski.

Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood and recited the Pledge.

Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Stettler made a motion, seconded Mr. Jones, to approve the March 13, 2017 minutes. All in favor.

Welcome and Introductions:

Chair Schultheis welcomed all.

EDC members

Members of the Public

Freeholder Presentation Review:

Freeholder Sarnoski recapped the presentation to the Freeholders the previous evening. The material presented did not fully represent the success of the project to date and gave the wrong impression to the Freeholders. He discussed ways to move forward.

Reports Of Committees

- Corey Tierney-Grow Warren Grant contract has been awarded to Greener by Design. There will be a kick off meeting next week.
 - Also looking at ways to support and help the various farmers markets in the county, USDA grant may have some funds available for that purpose.
- Art Charlton-Tourism Update, Farm Art Update –
 - Wanderings Newsletter continues to grow, there may be a way to include the Farm Art project in the Grow Warren grant.
- Status of Economic Development Consultants' Project –Jason and Betty
 - Development Process Audit-Health, Engineering, Planning-John Kruk, Dave Dech, Bill Gleba, Pete Summers – Need to focus on getting people together to move projects forward and help principals feel that Warren County is interested in their projects. Identify what the municipalities want so we can better match projects to municipalities.

- Best Practices and Model Zoning Ordinances-Linda Stettler, Dave Dech – Reviewed three municipalities.
- Online Permit and Process Checklist/Permitting Tracking Tool- Andrea Kirchuk, Robert Sidie, Dave Dech – Collected information about 4 different systems and have identified one that covers the scope of functionality and budget constraints. A sub-committee will be formed to include a wider group of people and identify additional requirements that may be included.
- Protocol for Handling Land Use Planning and Economic Development Inquiries-Presentation Gina Behnfeldt –Tetra Tech (Betty Schultheis, Stan Prater, Art Charlton) – Still a work in Progress
- Development, Revitalization and Brownfield Redevelopment-Todd Tersigni, Dave Dech – Todd reported on status of project in Phillipsburg. Todd, Dave and Gina identified and discussed Brownfield locations in the county, approximately 20 sites have met the requirements. Gina will contact Brownfield investors to see if there is interest.

Open Comments from the Public:

Public attendees present: Jim Thaller, Jim Palitto, Richard Cotton among others

Close Comments from the Public

New Business:

- Entrepreneur Development-Jim Thaller discussed an entrepreneurial group located in Blairstown that focuses on Agri-businesses. The group is geared toward providing education and access to investors and to offer solutions that produce results. They will be holding a Business Boot camp in the Fall.
- Ms. Azar reported about the WCCC Business Incubator located in P'burg. They provide a professional work space to small businesses and small business training.

Old Business:

- EDC Budget for 2017 – in progress
- Creation of a Foundation to assist with funding –Chair Schultheis and Gina are working on this.
- Creation of sub-committee consisting of: Art Charlton, Dave Dech, Pete Summers, Bob Sidie, John Kruk, Linda Stettler, Andrea Kirchuk, Bill Gleeba.
- Marketing Warren County – Scott discussed his concerns that we are not doing enough to market Warren County,

Next Meeting:

May 11, 2017 at 8:00 AM.

Adjournment:

Ms. Stettler made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Kruk, all in favor