

Warren County Economic Development Committee (WCEDC)

Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2017

Held at Oxford Township Municipal Building, 11 Green St., Oxford, NJ 07863

Chair Schultheis called to order the Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Mitchell Jones, John Kruk, Chris Maier, Chair Betty Schultheis, Herman Shoemaker, Linda Stettler, Todd Tersigni.

Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood and recited the Pledge.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Kruk made a motion, seconded Mr. Maier, to approve the May 11, 2017 minutes.
All in favor.

Welcome and Introductions:

The Warren County Economic Development Committee introduced themselves to the attendees in the audience and then the members of the audience introduced themselves. **See attached list of Attendees*

Betty explained the purpose for the meeting is to explain that a consulting firm named Tetra Tech was hired to do a study for us to look at economic development for Warren County. The next step is to put recommendations into play.

Reports of Committees:

Corey Tierney-Status of Grants

(Mitch reported in his absence) The Grow Warren Grant, looked at doing a questionnaire to obtain what farmers would and could grow that other businesses in the County could use, to match up growers and retailers.

Art Charlton-Tourism Update, Farmer's Fair 2017

Art talked about holding events at preserved open space properties so that they get better use out of them. Told about the Breadlock Park and activities planned. The Warren County Farmers' Fair is being held July 29th to August 5th 2017. Also explained www.ExploreWarren.org.

Status of Economic Development Consultants' Project (ALL EDC)

Betty explained the process with each members' input that they were assigned to.

Next Steps (handout) Betty

Presentation Re Economic Development in Oxford:

Councilman Marc Pasquini spoke on how they define themselves. We are agriculture, historic, farming, recreation. He said they are working with the "Old Oxwall Tool" site with the DEP, Highlands, as to its best purpose, would a 2 or 3 story building be beneficial? He also spoke on improving the image. Also talked about the bridge in the center of Town at the traffic lights, a new bridge will be put in on or about September 2019. How could they reduce speed through Town? Also discussed how to get business owners not to park in front of their own businesses. They need to market Oxford as a destination, use their assets: Oxford Lake, Shippen Manor.

Public Comment:

Ellen Johnson-Demeter spoke on police enforcement. Shirley Kocher asked if it were possible to have the Explore Warren website on every Town or Township in the County. The WC-EDC has reached out to all, but that is up to each individual municipality.

New Business:

· "Branding" Warren County

Betty explained that the consultants told us that we need to brand Warren County. We are working on a slogan. John Kruk announced on Facebook that we are looking for a slogan, his suggestion is something like, "Warren County, you can breathe out here!" This is also part of Grow Warren.

· Implementing the Plan * *Please see attached Implementation Next Steps Sheet*

Use tools such as a data base to find out what is needed in Towns and Township, see what they already have.

· Cory Tierney is working on a farm incubator.

· Linda spoke on Permitting. The County Planning Board is in the process of reviewing the recommendations to see if they could be implemented.

· John spoke on Red Carpet Treatment and if that could be achieved if residents had the attitude of "NIMBY" not in my back yard. Residents must be more open to get things to work for their Towns, to bring in ratables.

· Todd talked on Brownfields and what is happening in Phillipsburg.

Due to time, these matters will be discussed at the next meeting.

· EDC Budget for 2017

· Creation of a Foundation to assist with funding

Next Meeting:

July 13, 2017-8:00am Wayne Dumont Administration Building 165 County Route 519 S
Belvidere, NJ 07823

Adjournment:

Mr. Kruk made a motion, seconded by Mr. Maier, to adjourn. All in favor, adjourned at 9:16PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Linda H. Stettler, Acting Secretary



IMPLEMENTATION NEXT STEPS

I. Internal

- a. Permitting Software
 - i. Decide on desired package, purchase & implement
 - ii. Begin to develop long-term database from information input
- b. Development Process Improvements
 - i. “Red Carpet Treatment”
 - ii. Joint municipal / County pre-submittal meetings
 - iii. Improve accessibility of development review information on County website

II. External

- a. Employ Process Flow and supporting documents when inquiries are received
- b. Brownfields List & Property Information Sheets
 - i. Distribute to municipalities w/ suggestion on how to use
 - ii. Share with developer contacts
- c. Marketing
 - i. Develop Municipalities Marketing Sheets Using:
 - 1. County Information List
 - 2. ESRI Business Analyst Data
 - 3. Choose NJ Information
 - ii. Identify unmet goods and services demand in communities
 - iii. Promote area historic and agricultural assets through I-78 and I-80 signage
 - iv. Consider broader County branding that combines agricultural, residential and commercial together
- d. Establish EDC follow-up with all 22 municipalities