

Warren County Economic Development Committee (WCEDC)

Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2017

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

Roll Call:

Present: Mitchell Jones, Andrea Kirchuk, John Kruk, Chair Betty Schultheis, Herman Shoemaker, Linda Stettler, Chris Maier, Todd Tersigni and Freeholder Jason Sarnoski.

Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood and recited the Pledge.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Tersigni made a motion, seconded Mr. Jones, to approve the July 13, 2017 minutes. All in favor.

Welcome and Introductions:

Carol Cook, Democrat candidate for Warren County Freeholder; Anthony Iurato, Blirstown Land Use Board; Jeanette Iurato, President of Blirstown Museum; John Kennedy, President of Blirstown Enhancement Committee; Bob Law, Board Member of Foodshed Alliance; Luke Twomey, Independent candidate for Blirstown Township Committee.

Reports Of Committees

- Grow Warren representative will be at the August Board of Ag meeting to get buy-in from local farmers. Grow Warren was established to promote and facilitate growth in the agriculture community.
- Betty - Farmer's Fair 2017: EDC had table at the fair to seek feedback and input regarding a slogan for the county. John K offered the following: Warren County: You can breathe out here.
- Status of Economic Development Consultants' Project (Andrea, John): Subcommittee made up of Bill Gleba, Pete Summers, Dave Dech, Art Charlton, John Kruk and Andrea Kirchuk. Discussed the information that each department may have that would be helpful to put online if it could be included with the permitting software.
- Providing "Red Carpet" Treatment – Betty: Explanation of the purpose of the "Red Carpet" Treatment and how it is being used to speed/ease the process of bringing new businesses into the county. In particular this process is being used for QuVa Pharmaceutical which is coming into the Stewartsville area. This business is expected to bring in 150-200 new, good paying jobs within the next two years with the potential for up to 400.

Discussion of THE ROLE CULTURAL AND HISTORIC SITES PLAY and role of Cultural and Heritage Commission: As Cultural and Historic sites can be a good draw to bring people into the county, it would be beneficial to raise awareness of the sites we have in the county in addition to Shippen Manor. A privately owned museum, The Blairstown Museum, has recently opened on Main Street in Blairstown which has increased foot traffic in the village area.

Public Comment

- It is important that historic structures are protected and preserved.
- Question: Are we doing any recruiting to bring new businesses to the county?
 - Creating a list of Brownfield Properties to share with developers.
 - Business recruiting starts at the local level since Municipalities know what types of businesses are wanted and needed in the community.
 - Phillipsburg has started a PILOT program to encourage businesses to relocate there.
- Question: Has the EDC met with the towns to encourage them to be business friendly?
 - Towns are represented on the EDC by the members specifically to keep the towns informed.
- Question: Can county help cut through the red tape at State level so that the property at Cedar Lake Farm can be improved?
 - State owns property and will not allow the local community to use it.
 - Send info to Betty and she will see if there is anything she can do.
- Members of the Public all commented on how difficult it is to bring new businesses to Warren County.

Next Meeting:

September 14, 2017-8:00am County Administration Building, 165 CR 519 S Belvidere, NJ 07823

Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourned by John Kruk, seconded by Chris Maier.