

Warren County Economic Development Committee (WCEDC)

Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2017

Chair Schultheis called to order the Meeting at 9:05 AM.

Roll Call:

Present: Chair Betty Schultheis, Eve Azar, Mitchell Jones, Herman Shoemaker, Linda Stettler, Chris Maier, Todd Tersigni and Stan Prater.

Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood and recited the Pledge.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Shoemaker gave the following correction to the August 2017 minutes: “A privately owned museum, the Blirstown Museum, has recently opened on Main Street in Blirstown resulting in increased foot traffic in the village area.”

Mr. Tersigni made a motion, seconded Mr. Jones, to approve the August 10, 2017 minutes with this correction. All in favor.

Welcome and Introductions:

EDC members

Members of the public:

Jeanette Iurato, David Bensen, Jim Palitto, Jim Sheldon, J. Primerano, Matt Polsky

Committee Reports

- Subcommittee of Permitting Process:
 - Mr. Dech, reported the committee is waiting for quotes from 3 providers for online permitting software.
- Status of Grow Warren Grant:
 - Mr. Tierney stated grant is in the research phase. Consultants are meeting with the Board of Agriculture, stakeholders, etc., on September 28, 2017. The meeting should identify the challenges of bringing the products to market.
- Farmer’s Fair 2017, Tourism, Media Tools, Washington Boro Festival:

- Mr. Charlton stated they gave away 20 prizes at the fair and sponsored the Balloon Festival.
- Received two Giants game tickets as an advertisers incentive for placing display ad in Giants 17-18 Yearbook. Will be holding a contest with tickets as a giveaway to drive traffic to Explore Warren website.
- Wanderings had 59 editions over the last year.
- Explorewarren.org had its one-year anniversary and is seeing twice as many daily visitors in 2017 as in 2016.
- Washington Boro Festival is on September 28, 2017.

Open Comments from the Public:

- Presentation by Jeanette Iurato, Blairstown Museum:
 - Work to increase foot traffic on Main Street
 - Will hold events to attract visitors
 - Businesses need to work together to attract visitors
- Jim Sheldon, Hackettstown BID, is working on upcoming events such as a street fair and Oktoberfest. He is focusing on recruiting businesses.
- Matt Polsky suggests making stronger connections with the local economy such as farming, linking food critics to restaurants, and scheduling farmer’s markets so they do not compete with each other.

Close Comments from the Public

New Business:

Since we, the EDC, wish the two Shippen Manor staff members to meet on a regular basis with other historical site staff, Betty will make recommendation to Freeholders.

Old Business:

- WC Entrepreneur Boot Camp – Chair Schultheis is interested in starting a mentoring program.
- Foundation for Funding - Mr. Shoemaker will assist Chair Schultheis.

Next Meeting:

October 12, 2017 - 8:00 AM, County Administration Building.

Adjournment:

Mr. Tersigni, seconded by Ms. Stettler, made a motion to adjourn at 10:10 AM.