

Warren County Economic Development Committee (WCEDC)

Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2017

Chair Schultheis called to order the Meeting at 8:02 AM.

Roll Call:

Present: Chair Betty Schultheis, Eve Azar, Chris Maier, Mitchell Jones, Herman Shoemaker, John Kruk, Andrea Kirchuk, Stan Prater and Freeholder Jason Sarnoski.

Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood and recited the Pledge.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Prater moved to approve the October 12, 2017 minutes, with corrections Mr. Kruk seconded. All in favor with one abstention from Mr. Jones.

Welcome and Introductions:

EDC members

Dave Dech

Cory Tierney

Members of the public: John Maxman from JLM Signs

Committee Reports

- Subcommittee of Permitting Process:
 - Mr. Dech, reported that Pete Summers will be using the Gov Permit online system for the septic records to allow for public access. If the system works well then site plans will be added as well.
 - Permits issued by the county will be identified to determine how many there are and which would be best to include in Gov Permit first. Once the permits are launched and tested we can announce it to get the public to use the system.
- Status of Grow Warren Grant:
 - Mr. Tierney stated that the research phase is wrapping up for Grow Warren then a SWOT analysis will be developed for the Ag Community, Hope to have more info at next month's meeting.
- Update on Tourism: Reported by Ms. Schultheis
 - Mr. Charlton has been attending many events to spread the word about all the things going on in the county. Mr Maier suggested that the tourism website should be linked with the LOMB website.
- Ms. Schultheis-"Red Carpet" treatment:

- Ms. Schultheis is still working with the distillery people to find a location that meets their needs. They have decided against the property in Allamuchy and will be looking at others.
- There is another business that is looking for 1000 square feet of warehousing space.
- Central Jersey Equipment has purchased Warren County Sales (John Deere Dealer in Blairstown). They are already open and currently have 4 dealers in the space but they are looking for a larger property so they can expand and build.

Open Comments from the Public:

Mr. Maxman of JLM signs reported that he has been trying to purchase a property next door to the property he already owns in Alpha. The property he wants to purchase is abandoned and has been derelict for several years. He has been meeting with the Alpha land use board since January to get a variance to change the use of the property and has been facing obstacles and delays.

Freeholder Sarnoski suggested we create a white paper discussing the impacts of this type of obstruction on Economic Development. It would then be submitted to the Freeholders to be adopted and circulated to the towns. Mr. Kruk agreed to write the white paper. Freeholder Sarnoski suggested that we have funds available in our 2018 budget and that they could be allocated to keep planning boards better informed.

It was suggested that Ms Schultheis write a letter on behalf of the EDC to the governing body in Alpha explaining that we are looking to create job growth in the county and offering assistance in moving Mr. Maxman’s request forward, Mr Maier made the motion and Mr. Shoemaker seconded, all in favor.

Close Comments from the Public

Old Business:

- MS Schultheis will re-do the list of which EDC members are responsible for contacting which towns.
- EDC Budget for 2018
 - Identify more effective means of communicating information not only to the governing bodies of towns but also to residents of Warren County.
 - Put together a plan for regular and consistent communication from the EDC.

New Business:

Next Meeting:

December 14, 2017 – 7:30 PM, Phillipsburg Senior Center at 310 Firth Street.

Adjournment:

Mr. Maier made a motion to adjourn seconded by Mr. Prater.