



**Meeting Minutes of
January 10, 2019, 8:00 a.m.
Wayne Dumont Administration Building
165 County Rte. 519 Belvidere, NJ 07823-1949**

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. by Chair Betty Schultheis, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Eve Azar, Mitchell Jones, Andrea Kirchuk, John Kruk, Chris Maier, Stan Prater, Linda Stettler, and Betty Schultheis, Chair. Also present were Warren County staff: David Dech, Planning; Corey Tierney, Land Preservation; Art Charlton, Public Information and Tourism; Hank Bignell, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, and EDC Secretary Brittany Nigro; and guests Mary Jo Harris, Courtney Sartain, and Deborah Magalhaes.

Chair Schultheis reported that Freeholder James Kern, III, who will become freeholder liaison to the committee, will be at the next meeting. Mr. Palitto, Mr. Jones and Mr. Sheldon were reappointed to the committee by the Freeholder Board, and their terms will expire December 31, 2021.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion from Ms. Kirchuk, seconded by Mr. Prater, the meeting minutes of December 13, 2018 were accepted.

Reorganization: Ms. Kirchuk nominated Mrs. Schultheis for Chairwoman, seconded by Mr. Prater and Mr. Maier, and the motion carried. Mr. Prater nominated Mr. Jones for Vice-Chairman, seconded by Mr. Maier, and approved. Secretary will continue to be Ms. Nigro.

Old Business:

Follow-up on Presentation on Grown in Warren by Greener by Design: Warren County Director of Preservation Mr. Tierney noted there will be a presentation for the WC Board on Agriculture on January 16 and for the Freeholders on February 20. We should be getting the final report from Greener by Design by the next meeting.

Status on White Paper: Mr. Kruk presented the proposal from Dr. Austin. Mr. Kruk gave us the proposal from Dr. Austin and discussed the proposal. The results show the local ordinances, local land use boards, the slowness, the barriers to entry to business, the extra burden placed on business

trying to employ our residents will cost us jobs and money. We want to know how much it will cost and in what ways to make it faster.

Mr. Maier moved to approve the study and initiate it immediately; Ms. Kirchuk seconded the motion, which was approved. Mr. Tierney was asked to give to Freeholder James Kern. Mr. Kruk will also email the proposal to Mr. Tierney, Dave and Freeholder Kern.

For the February meeting, Chair Schultheis said we should know how to proceed and how to implement everything. She requested that everyone review all data from Tetra Tech and Camoin and think about Mr. Dech's changes for the process to date. With all of this data, we need input from the municipalities. Mr. Kruk suggested we use the Governing Officials Association meeting to present to all the towns and have the meeting wrapped around economic development. Every municipality should be contacted via email about the meeting. By the end of our February meeting, we need to come up with plan, she said.

Status on Processes: Warren County Planning Director Dave Dech noted his staff is still working on improving online mapping of development applications. Mr. Dech said he would like to provide an updated presentation when appropriate. He also asked new hire Valarie Discafani to look at the checklist for planned submissions and compare our checklist to other counties and municipalities to make sure we are not asking for more or something unreasonable. The next Warren Heritage Scenic Byway Committee Meeting is January 14 at the Washington Township Municipal building.

New Senior Program Coordinator of Warren County Introduced: Mr. Jones introduced Hank Bignell and discussed his background and what he has been doing these last 3 months. Mr. Bignell noted the Department of Agriculture is hosting a livestock processing/harvesting summit next week at Rutgers Ecoplex in Burlington County. Mr. Maier asked if there was a clearinghouse or a list the Department of Agriculture has that shows where to get things like hay, heifers or cows for sale. Mr. Bignell stated he needs to look into this.

WCCC Status: Ms. Azar reported on the college's strategic planning goals. WCCC has six workforce and economic development goals primarily in the non-credit department. Their goal is to guide and support economic development in the region. Some highlights are: recognized by the Sussex County ED Training and Development Award, did Amazon training at 3 locations in PA onsite, 2 Health Care career fairs, Civil Service training, work with QuVa to help fulfill some employment voids, incubator onsite, Literacy training to TASS, and strong partnerships with dental, medical fields.

Mrs. Azar talked about new business opportunity with Bev Graph Packaging in Alpha for renting office space and Thomas and Betts in Mansfield trying to put together training for them too. Mr. Maier suggested Ms. Azar and Mr. Kruk show Dr. Austin the Grown in Warren project. He has been very successful and we should pick his brain on how we can proceed. Ms. Azar also mentioned the Former Ingersoll Rand space is looking for 3 tenants. If anyone hears anything about who the tenants will be, please let her know.

Tourism update: Mr. Charlton said the New Jersey Division of Travel and Tourism is taking submissions online for the six-month Travel and Events Guide for April-September. Also, they are renewing their trade show display and looking for high quality photos. In addition, planning is

underway for the 3rd Annual ParkFest, June 8 in Bread Lock Park, and sponsorship opportunities are available.

Status on Phillipsburg Mall: No update.

Visitor Ms. Sartain, WC Health Department Planner, said the WC Health Department leads a WC Community Health Improvement Coalition and Ms. Harris is the Chair of that Coalition. They conducted a survey of WC residents with over 600 responses and ED was a big concern and that there is a hole on the ED side. She extended for us an invitation to join their meetings. Their next meeting is January 17, 10 a.m., at the Warren County Library Headquarters Branch, in the upstairs meeting room. Mrs. Stettler offered to see if she can attend and will get back with Chair Schultheis on that.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 a.m.

Next meeting: February 14, 2019, 8 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brittany Nigro