

**MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
MAY 21, 2012**

The Regular Meeting of the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission was called to order by Chairperson Michael Kretschmer at 7:00PM in the Joe Pace Meeting Room of the Municipal Complex. Notice of this meeting was given as required by the annual notice of meetings.

Chairperson Michael Kretschmer led the Commission in the salute to our flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Christine Feggans, Sharene Ginyard, Michael Kretschmer, Anthony (Tony) Langella, Victor Peters, Jared Valdez, Cncl. Ron Garbowski

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jared Valdez made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Economic Development Commission Meeting of March 19, 2012. The motion was seconded by Tony Langella and approved by all remaining members of the Commission in attendance; abstain by Sharene Ginyard, who was not in attendance of the March meeting.

Tony Langella made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Economic Development Commission Meeting of April 16, 2012. The motion was seconded by Jared Valdez and approved by all remaining members of the Commission in attendance; abstain by Christine Feggans, who was not in attendance of the April meeting and Victor Peters, who was not in full attendance of the April meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Chairperson Michael Kretschmer mentioned that the Library Small Business Training program was starting on Thursday evening. Michael asked if a member of the Commission could attend for representation, either for the upcoming first training night or for all four training nights. Tony Langella said he'll attend with Michael one night. Vic Peters asked if there are only a handful of people attending the training courses, is it still being held; Michael doesn't think so. Michael will check with Beth Lillie, Director of the Monroe Township Free Public Library, to make sure enough people have signed up and the training program is still being held.

Michael spoke in reference to the Welcome Signs. The signs still have not been made and placed, due to the New Jersey Department of Transportation requires the signs to be seven feet above the ground for pedestrian clearance; Michael is awaiting a response from Adams, Rehmann & Heggan Engineers in reference to the type of sign that the Commission wants does not get raised seven feet above the ground. Michael would like to approach another township board/commission to contribute to the cost of the township signs; maybe Parks and Recreation Commission or Open Space Advisory Committee.

The members discussed the Business Seminar that was held on April 26th. Approximately 25-30 people attended the seminar. Tony felt this seminar was very informative and was pleased with the outcome of the event; he thanked Jared for the assistance of his wife with the event, due to him not being well enough to attend.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS (*cont'd*)

Michael thanked Aileen for assisting with the banner and lawn signs for the event. Michael said that approximately 10-15 people signed up in interest of helping start a Business Association; he will contact them. Tony and Michael suggested having the Zoning Officer, Fred Weikel attend the next meeting of June 18, 2012 and also to invite the interested people to meet in reference to starting a Business Association the night of the regular scheduled meeting of the Economic Development Commission on September 17, 2012. Christine Feggans also suggested having the Police Department and Fire Departments involved with the planning of the Business Association, showing the support of township businesses; Cncl. Garbowski suggested contacting the Police Chief to ask if an officer can attend the meeting in September. Christine mentioned that during the seminar, Cncl. William Sebastian mentioned business properties that are vacant and available. Christine asked if there's a list that is available with this information. Michael said that a list is being compiled and that Lisa Morina from the Gloucester County Economic Development also has this information. Aileen told the members that a resident came into the Clerk's Office asking about the Main Street Revitalization Grant. The Clerk's Office researched information and informed the resident that the grant is no longer available for Monroe Township through the County; it was last available in 2004/2005. Michael mentioned that a resident who attended the seminar asked about tax incentives for Main Street. Cncl. Garbowski said there is a Tax Abatement Committee and Redevelopment Committee that people can go before with requests. Michael would like a member of the Tax Abatement Committee to attend the meeting for the Business Association. Vic suggested having a legal opinion to help with the association. Tony feels this should be a group of people who could provide information to others such as tax abatements, pinelands information and such. Christine feels that the town's businesses and business owners should be utilized more and that they should be more accessible to everyone in town and the town businesses need to develop.

Michael asked Jared for updated information on the Business Directory. Jared would like to ask for permission to research the cost of an automated system, such as Reference USA, that's constantly updating information; Jared will looking into more information to provide Cncl. Garbowski to contact Adams, Rehmann & Heggan Engineers.

Michael told the members that John "Bud" Robinson has resigned from the Economic Development Commission. Tony suggested Substitute Secretary Aileen to become a member of the Commission when Secretary Sherri McIlvaine returns to the Commission. The members discussed the bylaws and whom the Commission is to consist of, such as a realtor and Vic asked if a township employee as a member would be a conflict of interest.

Tony mentioned the idea of having a table at the Main Street Music Festival. Christine thinks they should; that's how she met Michael and learned of the Economic Development Commission. Tony will contact Jim Bonder in reference to having a table at the event.

ROUNDTABLE

- ~Jared – suggested changing antiquated ordinances/laws and to speak with Zoning Officer, Fred Weikel
- ~Christine – suggested Williamstown having a "Night Out" for businesses
- ~Sharene – no matters to discuss
- ~Vic – feels that Pinelands regulations prohibit development along the Black Horse Pike too much; the Black Horse Pike needs more development
- ~Tony – not pleased about public sewer and water not being available along the Black Horse Pike for businesses and the large costs to connect

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairperson Michael Kretschmer asked for a motion to adjourn. Victor Peters made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission Meeting of May 21, 2012. The motion was seconded by Jared Valdez; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Aileen Wojciechowski, Substitute Secretary

The next scheduled Monroe Township Economic Development Commission meeting is Monday, June 18, 2012 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Regular Economic Development Commission Meeting of May 21, 2012 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

Approved as submitted _____ Date _____
Approved as corrected _____ Date _____