

Economic Development Commission
Township of Monroe
September 19, 2012
Agenda

Members

Council Attendance

Mike Kretschmer - Present
Anthony Langella - Present
Victor Peters - Present
Sharene Ginyard - Absent
Christine Feggans - Present
Jared Valdez – Present
Aileen Wojciechowski- Present

Ron Grabowski- Present

With Council members in attendance this is an open public meeting no council business is being discussed or addressed at this meeting.

A.) **CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL (7:09 PM.)**

SALUTE TO FLAG

B.) **MINUTES WERE APPROVED** from August Meeting.

All members reviewed, Victor Peters made a motion to approve the minutes of August 20th 2012. The motion was seconded by Anthony Langella.

New Business

Opening the meeting Mr. Kretschmer welcomed all the local business owners and had them go around the room to introduce themselves and their companies along with the commission members. Mr. Kretschmer explained why they were invited to join us for the meeting; he told them the Township would like to see a Business

Association formed here. There are several reasons for this it would greatly help the business owners giving them a voice in communication to Council and Township there is strength in numbers. Business owners can interact and work together with other local business owners possibly offering some partnerships and improve all business in the township which comes a lot easier with this type of networking. (Example: Mrs. Feggans had a good idea for the artist working out of her home maybe displaying her artwork in a local business that has a store front.)

Per Jeanette Remsen the Township has not had a Business Association since 1997. Ms. Remsen felt it failed due to a lot of ideas but no one ever followed thru with any of these ideas with man power. One of the business owners present this evening stated he had attended a few meetings at that time, but felt there was no direction to really help the local businesses. He stated that it seemed to him that the association was much more focused on charity type of work not business oriented help.

A roundtable took place with Commission members and business owners. The business owners voiced opinions on issues such as infrastructure, redevelopment areas why other areas have expanded and Williamstown is on a slower pace why? Mr. Grabowski stated that Williamstown has more challenges due to our township being in a large area of the pinelands.

Mr. Grabowski stated he would like to see a Business Association formed and the EDC would like to help get them up and running on their own with them holding

their own meetings, and meeting goals, as business owners working together to improve all businesses in town. Once they have formed the Association maybe they could meet quarterly with the EDC to give updates on how things are working.

Business owners questioned what is the focus and objectives for this Association. The commission felt they as business owners should come up with some ideas that they feel should be the objectives and the focus for them as a group of business owners.

Mr. Kretschmer suggested they write some ideas down bring them to our next meeting so they can be discussed. Mr. Kretschmer stated that the township planner will be in attendance which could be informative as to what direction the township is heading.

Sign up forms were handed out at this meeting for business owners that are interested in becoming a member of the Business Association to fill out with all their contact information. Mr. Kretschmer collected all the forms and will compile a member list.

Old Business

Welcome signs. Mr. Garbowski stated the township has the permit, but the signs need to be changed to state requirements if it is put on original site chosen on the Black Horse Pike.

Other locations were discussed.

Members took a vote and it was unanimous to keep the original location and change the sign to state requirements.

Mr. Grabowski will contact ARH engineers in reference to placement.

Business Directory

Mr. Valdez reported he has been working on editing the e-mail list.

The most updated list of Businesses was handed out this evening by Ms. Wojciechowski supplied from Skip Tomarchio the townships fire official.

Ms. Wojciechowski stated that Mr. Tomarchio would be more than happy to come in to our next meeting.

Mr. Kretschmer suggested maybe have him come to our November meeting, due to October's meeting Tim Kernan our Twp. planner will be in attendance along with our business owners.

Ms. Wojciechowski will ask Mr. Tomarchio to attend the November EDC meeting and advise.

Roundtable

Mr. Langella reported the he and Mrs. Feggans went to 15 businesses and felt that going to local businesses door to door was a success to recruit them to become members of the Business Association. He also stated the EDC has to get behind and help the Business owners to help form this Association and keep them focused and interested. Mr. Peters handed out flyers at the Rotary Club to recruit businesses.

Mrs. Feggans suggested maybe having a suggestion box for the Association to let the business owners voice their ideas.

Mr. Valdez suggested we talk about the Township website next month to try and get some additional information and forms available on-line.

Mr. Peters stated he felt the commission should have had a better plan and guidelines laid out to help form the Business Association.

Reports-None

Adjournment 9:25pm.

First motion for adjournment was made by Mr. Valdaz
Seconded by Mr. Langella

The next EDC meeting will be held on October 15th 2012.