

**MINUTES  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
OCTOBER 9, 2017 - 7:00 P.M.**

The Regular Meeting of the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission was called to order by Chairperson Anthony Langella at 7:02 P.M. in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Meeting Room of the Municipal Complex. Notice of this meeting was given as required by the annual notice of meetings.

Chairperson Tony Langella led the Commission in the salute to our flag. Christine Feggans offered the Invocation.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Ernie Carbone, Richard Coe, Tom Duffy, Christine Feggans, Anthony Langella, Richard Sanford, Jared Valdez

Absent: Cncl. Joe Marino

**WELCOME**

Today is October 9th. This is the Economic Development Commission meeting. Tony welcomed the commission members and Secretary, Meryl Lynn Murtha.

Tony reported that he is receiving an award in Passaic County. He accepted the award for excellence for the Economic Development Commission. He responded for all of us because *we* earned it as a team. Tony was also interviewed by the South Jersey Business Magazine. He highlighted what is attributing to our growth: The Chamber of Commerce; our strong Economic Development Commission; a successful Main Street Committee; a forward moving Mayor and Council; and he touted Suasion, the Marketing group working with us.

The commission members agree we are moving in the right direction. There was talk among the commission regarding potential electoral candidates. Rich Coe mentioned he is serving as the solicitor of the Zoning Board.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Tony thanked Meryl Murtha for her timely dispersal of the meeting minutes. Meryl thanked the commission for their praise. Corrections were made to the minutes:

- (1) On the last adjournment, Jared's name was correction to Valdez
- (2) The Governor's Conference is corrected to read: The New Jersey Governor's Conference on Housing and Economic Development

Ernie Carbone made a motion to approve the minutes of the Economic Development Commission Meeting of September 18, 2017, as corrected. The motion was seconded by Tom Duffy and approved by all members of the commission.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER MATTERS**

Chairperson, Tony Langella reported on attending the New Jersey Governor Conference on Housing and Economic Development, also attended by Jared, Rich Sanford and Ernie attended another day. Tony didn't feel there was much attention given to South Jersey. Others agreed. Ernie said that all the programs presented mentioned that towns and groups like ours work together. Our Chamber, Mayor, Council, EDC Commission have to work together. Rich Sanford spoke about awards given showed a sense of identity. Tony lead a

discussion regarding the time it takes for a development project from application to completion. There are many permits and layers of approvals. Pinelands has to sign off on the project and also State law directs a lot of the process.

Tom Swartz arrived at 8:20 P.M. and was greeted by Tony and the Commission.

Williamstown is getting bad press about the mold issue in our schools. There was concern as to what steps will be taken to address the issue. Two thirds of our town's tax dollars go to the education system. Our schools have a high reputation. The School Board is responsible for their facilities but the town's reputation is hurt.

**VOLUNTEER HOUR REPORT**

The members reported their volunteer hours to the Secretary (attached)

**OLD BUSINESS**

**SPOTLIGHT ON BUSINESS**

Christine mentioned Solar Source, supported by Cody Miller. At the Amish Market, she booked the Soap Store to be featured in October; Christine is going to visit the Escape Room. She will be also visiting with the promotional printing store next to the old La Bamba.

**MAIN STREET COMMITTEE**

Ernie noted that we currently have our third Scarecrow contest going on Saturday, October 14 from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. We're hoping for more than 22 scarecrows. It will be judged by the Mayor's wife and three trophies will be given at the Halloween Parade.

Regarding the Briller Property, The plans are for a restaurant on the ground level, it will be four stories, with parking in the back. There will be two restaurants... The 33 banners being sponsored by local businesses were all sold in hours. We're looking for more poles and will check with the town. The line painting has been temporarily suspended until other work is done... Rich Sanford noted that his landlord informed him that the front space in his building have been leased to a business coming in shortly... The Cobbler has added a UPS Drop Off and a Locksmith. He just needs longer hours.

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Tony touted Katherine Falcone and the Chamber of Commerce, 150 strong and growing. He saw her at a recent event for Rowan University at the Winery and mentioned another Chamber Networking event at Scotland Run Thursday, October 19, 2017. Catherine extended an invitation to the Commission members.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Jared thought the conference was good. He reported the ten-year real estate prediction was flat and we're about to hit a downward cycle of the economy. The uptrend has been going too long and the market is ready to correct. The commercial lags behind the residential.

**TRI-COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT**

Ernie, Tony and Christine attended and enjoyed the program.

**TAX CARD**

Tony spoke with Jennifer. She's talented and motivated and wants the position. She is waiting for a commitment from the town. The Mayor has the answer. Tom Duffy added that we'd like to get the Mayor's and the Council's vision of growth for this town. This EDC needs to know what that commitment is and communication has to be improved. We can start with Cncl. Marino. Tony will invite the Mayor to join us at the November 20, 2017 EDC Meeting. Tom Swartz said that when he spoke to the Mayor he suggested that the person in the Tax Card position should report to someone other than Rosemary, the Community Development Director.

Ernie brought up the issue of how to address the Mayor, the vision, where we need to go. A special meeting, independent of scheduled EDC meetings was suggested. Rich Coe agreed that a meeting with only this topic on the agenda was warranted. The commission was polled and all members were in favor and said they would attend.

**TOM SWARTZ MEETING WITH MAYOR TEEFY**

Tom said the Mayor was aware there were some issues in the Community Development office. Tom met with the Mayor regarding the concern of the Economic Development Commission. Mayor Teefy addressed some points Tom brought attention to immediately. Tom is looking forward to a good, timely outcome to the meeting with the Mayor. He felt the meeting was productive and offered assistance and availability for any future discussion.

**ROBERT BENDER**

Tony noted that Robert Bender had been appointed by Council. Rich Sanford and Tom Duffy were appointed by the Mayor at the beginning of the year. Due to his upcoming family agenda and schedule, Rich, 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate, proposed that Tom move into the opening left by Robert Bender. Rich will remain as an Alternate.

Rich Coe left at 8:00 P.M.

**TROLLEY TOUR**

Ernie handed out and presented a task list spread sheet. Commission members took lists of follow up calls to be coordinated with Suasion's work. Ernie reviewed the list re: Trolley rental; Evites; follow-up calls; information folders (printing, delivery, and stuffing); all copies on file. Next item: Agenda; Meet and Greet; Speakers; Venue set up by 1:00 P.M.; Caterer set up. Electronic sign should say... Williamstown – Come Grow with Us... Welcome Developers. Some of the group will meet to finalize on Monday October 16 at 7:00 P.M. Ernie will make sure all articles needed for the day will be there. Ernie distributed a phone call script and gave out names to call.

All of Council was invited as protocol; Catherine Falcone (Chamber of Commerce) is attending. Tony added there will be 20-25 people other than developers coming. Dress should be Business Casual, tie preferred.

Tony thanked Ernie for his excellent work. Ernie praised the fact that when we were unsure about the success of the Trolley Tour, we forged ahead. Tony was pleased to say we are going in the right direction. The outcome of this program could impact the next elections.

**MEMBER REPORTS and ROUND TABLE** were dispensed with due to the time and length of the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, Chairperson Tony Langella asked for a motion to adjourn. Jared Valdez made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission Meeting of October 9, 2017. The motion was seconded by Tom Swartz; all in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

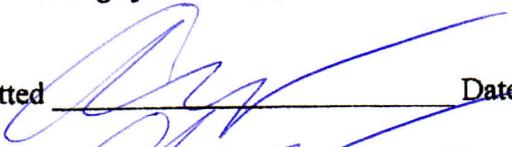
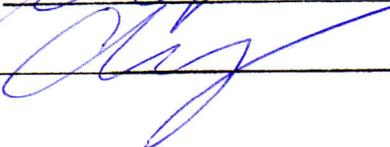
Respectfully submitted,



Meryl Lynn Murtha, Secretary

The next scheduled Monroe Township Economic Development Commission meeting is Monday, November 20, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.

*These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the recorded proceedings of the Regular Economic Development Commission Meeting of October 9, 2017 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.*

Approved as submitted  Date 11/20/17  
Approved as corrected  Date 11/20/17