**Medford Township**

**Economic Development Advisory Commission**

**February 11, 2021 – 7:00 pm
via ZOOM on-line Conference platform**

Present: Joe Burgoyne, Mike Pagnotta, Abbie Galie, Vittorio Anepete, Jim Previti, Tom Juliano, Beth Portocalis, Councilwoman Lauren Kochan

* Welcomed new board member Tom Juliano.
* Motion to approve January 2021 Minutes

Motion Abbie, Second Mike
Abstain: Tom

Approved

* Motion to approve November 2020 Minutes

Motion: Abbie, Second: Mike
Abstain: Tom

Approved

* Abbie recommended Downtown NJ free seminar with NJ Department of Community Affairs’ Main Street Coordinator Jeff Buehler on Friday Feb 19 @ 11AM. Abbie is on the Board of Downtown NJ and representing Medford well.
* The Annual 2021 Medford Organization Summit and Township Update co-sponsored by the MBA & EDC will be February 23rd, 2021 at 8:30 AM

**Goals**

* **Inventory Spreadsheet**
	+ Joe: Our main goal is the deliverable to Council of a spreadsheet with vacancies.
	+ Beth: We should incorporate planned industrial properties ex. Site on Gravelly Hollow Rd (Sirchie Vehicle Division)
* **Covid Reopening and getting the word out.**
	+ Beth: Recent increase in indoor restaurant seating capacity led to TV news coverage of Braddock’s Tavern & other Main Street businesses.
	+ Gov. Exec. Order permitted outdoor seating for restaurants & breweries without planning and zoning approvals through Nov. 2022. Council to consider a Resolution for same at 1st mtg. in March.
	+ Beth mentioned the professional aasocaition for NJ Planners is advising that municipalities should be reviewing existing Ordinances, as many businesses and other commercial properties will want to make rules for outdoor seating & displays permanent.
	+ Trying to work the newspapers to get stories out about all of the positive development taking place in Medford.
	+ Abbie: Breweries will be allowed to sell curbside per proposed State ABC rule changes.
* Tom proposed offering a concession liquor license and lease the old municipally owned buildings to restaurants. Competition would increase sales of existing restaurants.
* Councilwoman Kochan: Council is aware of the opportunity for use of concession licenses.
* **Opening a business in Medford Brochure.**
	+ A similar brochure already exists and is available in hard copies & on the website. Suggestion to mail to all real estate firms that buy/sell commercial properties.
* **Survey to businesses about how we can help.**
	+ Formal survey tabled for now.
	+ Vittorio suggest we still network and informally survey business owners about what the EDC could do to help Medford businesses.
	+ Abbie: Businesses may need help to learn how to use free social media for marketing.
* **Events in each district**
	+ Tabled as it may be too soon for events
	+ Abbie: MBA said June was too soon for Art and Wine Fest. Opted to delay it and potentially combine with OktoberFest in September.
	+ Beth: Food trucks to start up in March.
	+ Fireworks in July may be too optimistic.
	+ Vittorio: Farmers Market proposed to start up again under EAAC. Abbie said MBA voted to support it. EAAC will present to Council in spring for approvals

**5 Commercial Districts (2021 champions)**

*Statistics of available properties and vacancy rates*

* Crossroads: Joe Burgoyne
	+ Luce Reopened last Friday, 138 Medford-Mt Holly Rd for sale. (animal hospital)
* Route 70 Corridor: Mike Pagnotta
	+ Arrarat Carpet store is empty. Old Whole Hog Café to be vacated when they move to Main St.
	+ Sports Paradise moving to former Sun First building @ Hartford & Old Marlton Pike
* Medford Village: Abbie Galie
	+ Wonder World Toy’s space is open-tey moved to a larger space across the street.
	+ Scavenger Hunt on March 13th
	+ Fabulous Fig Food Truck is interested in Harvest Coffee’s old site.
	+ Burlington County created $100/yr permit for food trucks.
* Shops on Stokes: Vittorio Anepete
	+ Mathnasium, Dynamic Flooring, 338 Stokes at corner of Stokes/Himmelein all vacant
* Tuckerton & Taunton: Jim Previti
	+ Beth: Lexington Bldg sold to owners in Medford Lakes. Largely due to the designation as an area in need of redevelopment.
	+ DePetris’ have additional plans in discussion with Council.

Action Items:

* Joe to circulate vacancy list.
* Gather content for a social media post for a business in each district.

Adjourn: Motion: Joe, Second Abbie

Adjourned at 8:21 PM