



49 Union Street • Medford • NJ 08055 • 609/654-2608

www.medfordtownship.com

MAIN FAX 609/953-4087

CLERK/FINANCE FAX 609/714-1790

CONSTRUCTION FAX 609/953-7720

PUBLIC WORKS FAX 609/654-7646

**MEDFORD TOWNSHIP
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING**

MEETING MINUTES

THURS., JUNE 8, 2023 @ 7:00 PM - Town Hall Community Room

ROLL CALL (7:08 pm):

Present: Sarah Cooper, Michelle Voorhees, Brian Seltzer, Dave Miller, Beth Portocalis

Absent: Avril Dickerson, Mike Pagnotta and Mike Baublitz

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 3, 2023 meeting

Sarah Cooper made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Brian Seltzer. All voted in favor of approval.

NEW BUSINESS / ON-GOING PROJECTS

- I. Updated spreadsheet of available commercial properties – All
No change to areas for Dave Miller & Brian Seltzer.
Addition of ice cream shop at Ironstone Village reported by Michelle Voorhees.
One change to Taunton and Tuckerton to reflect unit leased to Captain Crab.
No updates for Mike Pagnotta, Mike Baublitz or Avril Dickerson
Sarah Cooper will update the effective date and send the file to Beth Portocalis for submission to the Council
- II. Comments from presentation to Council – Miller
Dave Miller updated on the EDC items discussed at the Council meeting of May 16th
Council was very pleased with the draft pamphlet. They had three suggested changes that have already been incorporated. They also expressed that they understood the commercial listings process and saw the benefit of that for their use for prospective new businesses.
- III. Update on Meetings with any business owners & delivery of surveys – All
Surveys still need to be printed and Beth Portocalis will undertake to do this by July meeting.
Sarah Cooper updated the committee on a meeting she had with David DePetris, owner of the Village at Taunton Forge shopping center. Mr DePetris is keen to understand the mission of the EDC and forge closer relationships with the EDC. He sees the benefits in understanding what the Council is intending to do and has offered to come to one of our committee meetings to share his vision for the Shopping Center.
Sarah Cooper as champion for the shopping center will coordinate with Mr DePetris

- IV. Update on EDC Informational Pamphlet & Tag Line (approved by Council w/edits) – Miller, Seltzer
Council updates have been included and we are ready to print the pamphlet. Brian Seltzer will coordinate with the printer; and Beth Portocalis will provide the PO directly to the vendor. To be complete for July meeting
- V. Email addresses for EDC members (Gmail addresses) Cooper
Dave Miller will send out reminder emails to any remaining people to update and create their Gmail accounts NameMedfordEDC@gmail.com. If not completed in time then the original email provided will be used on the business cards
- VI. Update On Business Cards - Voorhees, Portocalis
Once emails are confirmed we can move ahead with printing business cards. Deadline of 6/16/23 for response and then sent to Beth Portocalis to order.
- VII. Update on “Opening A Business in Medford” Brochure - All
a. Updates to the current brochure
b. Distribution Ideas & follow-up
**This is on hold until the fall meetings
- VIII. Summary of Liquor License Reform Meeting held at Lower Forge Brewery – Cooper
Sarah Cooper updated the committee on a meeting held by the Downtown New Jersey organization to share the current status of efforts to reform the liquor licensing laws. Governor Murphy is proposing bi-partisan legislation which would address the current issues seen – to few licenses which are very expensive and are proving to be a barrier to small enterprises starting up businesses. Significant revenue is attributed to alcohol sales and they are impactful to the bottom line. There is no legislation at the moment to coalesce around, however several townships and organization have issued proclamations/resolutions stating that they approve to the potential proposed reforms which are : over time reduce the population limits on the number of licenses, reduce the price to make them more affordable, find a mechanism to compensate existing active license holders for the loss in value. Return inactive license back to the appropriate municipalities.
Sarah Cooper will provide a written summary of the meeting to be able to send to the Council Members
- IX. Other Business
Beth Portocalis reported that Medford has received a \$1.486 million grant from the NJDOT under their TAP/Transportation Alternatives Program for Main Street. This will include physical improvements from Church Road to Chapel Avenue to facilitate pedestrian and bicycling access and safety; including substantial streetscape improvements. No timeline for work to be completed as yet. Main Street lighting is out to bid now and will be constructed separately over the next few months.

Going forward minutes and draft agenda will be sent to Michelle Voorhees ahead of time by Beth Portocalis for review and alignment prior to submission to the entire board & published on website.

ADJOURNMENT:

Sarah Cooper motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. Brian Seltzer seconded. All in favor.

****NEXT MEETING – AS PREVIOUSLY DECIDED, CHANGED TO WEDNESDAY, JULY 12th @ 7:00 pm**