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**MEDFORD TOWNSHIP  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**THURS., JULY 12, 2023 @ 7:00 PM - Town Hall Community Room**

**ROLL CALL (7:04 pm):**

Present: Dave Miller, Mike Baublitz, Sarah Cooper, Avril Dickerson, Mike Pagnotta, Beth Portocalis and Councilman Erik Rebstock.

Absent: Michelle Voorhees, Brian Seltzer

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 8, 2023 Meeting**

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

**NEW BUSINESS / ON-GOING PROJECTS**

**1) Updated spreadsheet of available commercial properties-All**

No change to areas for Dave Miller & Brian Seltzer

No updates for Mike Pagnotta, Mike Baublitz or Avril Dickerson

Sarah Cooper will update the districts and send the file to Beth Portocalis for submission to the Council

**2) Update on Meetings with any business owners +delivery of surveys**

- a. Dave Miller noted that Board members haven't done anything yet on surveys as they were awaiting the EDC informational pamphlet and personalized business cards. Councilman Rebstock suggested that a QR Code be created on the survey to link to the website for more information on the EDC and on-line completion, which may be easier than writing out a survey and mailing it in or having EDC members return to pick them up. When the Business Cards are ready, Beth Portocalis will have the surveys with a QR Code printed and ready.

**3) EDC Informational Pamphlet**

- a. Copies were distributed to the EDC members.

#### **4) Update on Business Cards**

- a. Beth Portocalis confirmed the business cards have been ordered and shipped. She will send an email to EDC members to let them know when they can pick them up.

#### **5) Update on MBA Networking Event held 6/29/23- Sarah Cooper**

- a. MBA confirmed that the EDC is part of their membership at no cost, and can participate in MBA sponsored events & functions.
- b. MBA members were interested in the EDC and what it can do. Sarah Cooper met with David DePetris from Taunton Forge Shopping Center and Christine from Medford Mills who would like to attend one of the EDC meetings to discuss some of her ideas. She has had trouble with people finding her place of business and has signage concerns. Beth Portocalis suggested to her that she talk with the Zoning Officer, as she may need to seek a variance for the signage she is considering. Sarah will get Christine in touch with Avril, the EDC liaison to the Medford Village area.
- c. According to Mr. DePetris, the hardware store will be changing hands. The 20,000sf vacant store slotted as supermarket is still being actively marketed; with one concept being floated as a market similar to the Reading Terminal.

#### **6) Goals and Objectives**

- a. With the Pamphlet, Business Cards and Surveys, members will blanket their areas in September
- b. Members will go to individual businesses and attempt to meet with owners or managers. If not available, members will drop off the information

#### **7) Guest Speakers for Upcoming Meetings**

- a. Sarah Cooper suggested that Dave DePetris would like to attend a meeting and speak with us; possibly in October when he may have more “news” to report on. She also suggested Jeff Sallade from 3D Physical Fitness, whom she also spoke with at the MBA event
- b. Beth Portocalis suggested Miles Pressey from the State Business Center (a Lumberton resident) or Nolan Lewin, a resident who works at the Rutgers Business Center, could be possible speakers. Mr. Lewin’s expertise is culinary, and he’s interested in discussing the possibility of a Medford “Ghost Kitchen”

#### **8) Update on “opening a Business in Medford” brochure**

- a. Dave suggested that we wait until fall to proceed.

**9) Other Business**

- a. Beth Portocalis suggested that the EDC have a presence at both the Oktoberfest in September and the Dickens Festival in December
- b. Medford has been invited to an ISCS marketing event that will be in Philadelphia this year on September 6, 2023. Developers attend, and it's an opportunity for Medford and other municipalities to showcase it's commercial areas. The invite has also been shared with Council. Anyone interested and available to attend on behalf of EDC should contact Beth Portocalis, who will RSVP.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- c. Avril Dickerson motioned to adjourn at 7:50 and Sarah Cooper seconded. All in favor.

**\*\*NO AUGUST MEETING. NEXT MEETING-SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 @7:00 PM**

*Prepared by Michael Pagnotta*