

Economic Development Commission
October 13, 2009

Mrs. Becker called the Economic Development Commission Meeting to order. Mrs. Millikin called the roll: Mr. Prendergast, Dr. Woodhull, Dr. Clark, Mrs. Logan, and Mr. Zwahl were present. Mr. Hayek had called ahead to be excused. Mrs. Becker stated that the Open Public Meetings Act had been complied with.

Mrs. Becker moved to Reorganization. Each Commission Members gave a brief background on how they came to Newton and how they got involved with the Commission. Mrs. Becker indicated that all Commission Members bring a good background to the Economic Development Commission. Mrs. Becker indicated that there was a need to appoint a new Chairperson. Mr. Prendergast nominated Mrs. Logan and was seconded by Dr. Woodhull. The Commission approved the Chairwoman by a unanimous “aye” vote. Mrs. Logan moved to the appointment of a Vice Chairperson. Mr. Prendergast nominated Mr. Zwahl and was seconded by Dr. Clark. The Commission approved the Vice Chairman by a unanimous “aye” vote. Next was the nomination of a secretary. Dr. Woodhull nominated Mrs. Millikin and was seconded by Mr. Prendergast. The Commission approved the secretary by a unanimous “aye” vote. Mrs. Logan moved to the final item under reorganization Meeting Dates. Mrs. Millikin explained that this meeting is scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Would the Commission like to meet every other month or quarterly? Discussion ensued and it was determined that the Commission would meet every other month at 6:30 p.m. Dr. Woodhull made a motion to approve the new meeting schedule and was seconded by Mr. Zwahl. The Commission approved the meeting dates by a unanimous “aye” vote.

Mrs. Logan moved to the next item on the agenda under New Business. Mrs. Millikin indicated that in everyone’s packet she had provided a list of goals the Commission may want to tackle. The goals listed were:

- Identify Vacancies
- Target Retailers/New Businesses
- Marketing of Newton
- Two-way Communication with Town Officials
- Property Maintenance of existing buildings
- Best Practices from other Communities

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- Tri-fold Pamphlet for Sussex County Community College

Mrs. Becker indicated that with new blood and planning already in place that Newton is poised for good things. Mrs. Millikin passed around to the Commission Members a folder that was completed by Hardyston Township on promoting Economic Development. Mrs. Millikin indicated it would be something that could be done relatively easy and provide necessary information such as demographics, financial information, major transportation routes, etc. Mrs. Becker indicated that this is something we could work with both Main Street Newton and the Chamber on as well. Mrs. Logan indicated this should be made electronic so that this can be accessed on line by providing a link as well as updating the information. Discussion ensued.

Dr. Woodhull provided a copy of a Chester Township brochure/map. This is something that could be done on line providing a location of all the various shopping venues in Town. Mrs. Logan would like to try to get a list of businesses in Town so these could be listed on the website. Mrs. Millikin indicated she could work with the Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Newton to obtain such a list. Discussion ensued on vacancies and the need for some specifics on space available in Town. Mrs. Millikin indicated that the County Chamber of Commerce just completed a major inventory of this for Newton and will follow up with them on this matter. Mrs. Becker suggested a representative from the County Chamber of Commerce attend an upcoming meeting.

Mrs. Becker mentioned that Main Street had completed a market analysis and she would try to obtain this for the use of the Commission. Mr. Zwahl brought up issues with perception and buildings. Work needs to be done to help address dilapidated buildings. APRA will help to address this. Dr. Woodhull indicated that there is a Spring Street Group working on absentee landlords. Mrs. Becker indicated that the goal is to work with landlords to improve properties.

Mrs. Logan indicated that there should be another meeting in November. Mrs. Millikin indicated she would give everyone a task from the folder to complete and go over at the next meeting. This information will be sent out prior to the

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next meeting. There being no other information to discuss Mr. Prendergast made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mrs. Logan. The Economic Development Commission Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Lockwood
Director of Community Development