

Town of Newton
Economic Development Commission
January 9, 2018

Mayor Wayne Levante called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. Attendees: Ryan Stapel, Dr. Clark, Kevin Prendergast, Mark Maruska, Rich Krasnomowitz. Ms. Williams served as Secretary.

Mark Maruska resigned. Mr. Levante asked for a letter of resignation.

Mr. Prendergast stated that the Open Public Meeting Act had been complied with.

Mel Dennison and Mike Malone attended as guests.

Reorganization

Chairperson: Kevin Prendergast

Mr. Levante made a motion. Mr. Stapel seconded. Nominations closed.

All in favor - Motion carried.

Old Business

Mr. Levante spoke:

- 1.) Krogh's Brewery – delayed. Operators are considering buying the building they are renting on Paterson Ave.
- 2.) RPM – is scheduled to open mid-February.
- 3.) Style Shop Project – has been completed and there are businesses interested in the retail spaces that need an ordinance change. There has been the 1st reading in January and the second reading is scheduled for February.
- 4.) McQuire Car Dealership – Woodmont's interest has expired.
- 5.) G&H on Water St. – no updates.
- 6.) Armory project – still ongoing.
- 7.) Seton Hall completed their marketing research project with the Town.
- 8.) Sussex County Community College is scheduled to rent the *Plaza Restaurant* and *Lou's Music* for a culinary school.

There was a discussion on the Harry Potter style event and the large crowds. Parking spaces have been counted for the future event. Mr. Stapel spoke about insurance and safety. He was thankful for no accidents. Possible pre-ticket sales in order to maintain head count. There was discussion to extend the event to lower Spring Street.

Mr. Dennison suggested the event be 2-day. Mr. Stapel states a "model" is required for this event. Mr. Stapel states he may be able to obtain a "Stranger Things" actor. Mr. Stapel states the license fee for a name brand event is \$100,000.

New Business

Mr. Levante spoke about a possible new ordinance being written by Ursula Leo regarding policy for when *more than 10 people are organized*. He states this will cover permission which needs to be acknowledged by the Police and Town Manager among others.

Mr. Maruska spoke about possibly rebranding the lower Spring Street corridor. He suggested calling it the "Rail Head District" because of the train station history in that area.

Mr. Levante spoke about possible events to be held in 2018:

January - Rebranding meeting at the Barrel House on January 18, 2018. Hosted by the Greater Newton Chamber of Commerce

February - Valentines Dance at the Newton VFW on February 10, 2018. Hosted by the GNCC
Suggested new event: Mardi Gras to be held on February 13, 2018

March - St. Patrick's Day Parade

April - Easter Egg Hunt. Hosted by the Town of Newton Recreation Dept

May - "May the 4th Be with You". Hosted by Newton Merchants.
Suggested new event: Cinco de Mayo

June - Newton Day. (Possible a 2 day event)

July - Music festival

August - Garage Sale/ Sidewalk Sale – 2 Movie Nights. Town of Newton

September - Taste of Newton. Hosted by GNCC (possible date change)

October - 3rd Annual Fall Festival. 2nd Annual Railhead District Festival

November - Harry Potter Style Festival. Annual Holiday Parade hosted by GNCC

December - "All Things Lights" / 30 Days of Christmas. Newton Merchants
Annual Holiday Tree lighting hosted by the Town of Newton
Suggested event: New Year's Eve ball drop

Motion to adjourn at 8:24pm was made by Mr. Prendergast and seconded by Mr. Krasnomowitz.
Motion carried.

Next meeting is March 13, 2018.