

New Britain Borough Community & Business Committee Minutes August 8, 2013

Present: Marie Esher Coia, Robert Belchic, David Holewinski, Jackie D'Agostino, Lorraine Moxey, David Fermier, Lynn Bush

Guests: Don Borden, Rob Stout, Joe Cossolini (Resident), Steve Gieseler (Business Owner), Mike Stanislaw (Resident), Joanne Malta (Resident),

Excused: Chris Forlano, Donna von Lipsey, David Joss, Debbie Byrne

Chair Marie Esher Coia, called the meeting to order 7:30 PM. The minutes from our July meeting were reviewed and approved after making a correction to the date of the minutes.

Old Business:

Knoell Property: Bob shared that Attorney John VanLuvanee and developer Jack Bienenfeld attended the Borough Council meeting to share their plans for the property. Mr. Bienenfeld is proposing five apartment buildings, 108 units, three and four stories high, on the site, plus a clubhouse and pool. In a subsequent conversation, Bob told Mr. VanLuvanee that was not consistent with our vision for the property and shared our plan. The developer did not seem interested in working within our recommendations for the property.

Bitzer Property: Probably did not sell at auction. Bob and David are going to investigate whether or not the property is contaminated and report to council so an official announcement can be made.

Various discussions with Delaware Valley College Officials: Residents have met with college officials regarding their concerns of the lighting for the athletic field. The college has proposed installing a buffer for light and sound. The college has also moved the lighting back toward the school to eliminate the set back issue. Bob mentioned that we (The Borough) have a commitment from the college to work with the residents and felt this was a good step in moving toward resolution.

Delaware Valley College new VP for Student Affairs- Delaware Valley College April L. Vari: The committee agreed that April should be invited to our meetings. Rob and Don will speak to her on our behalf.

The committee also discussed that we form a subcommittee to develop a brochure about the Borough for the incoming freshman class.

Review Revitalization recommendations- Don Borden & Rob Stout: Don and Rob shared their plan for a starting point with the committee and asked for comments. David H. thought the plan was very thorough. Lynne would like to see their recommendations relevant for all development sites, not just the Knoell property. Bob B felt that we could build on this plan, but we need to look beyond the Knoell property.

Don suggested that we look at the current ordinances of individual properties in the borough that might potentially sell and establish a vision for them.

Lynn suggested that we consider hiring someone as a liaison between businesses and Borough. Lynn will invite Stephen Barth, Economic Development Director for Perkasio and Dublin to our next meeting to discuss the work that he has done.

New Business:

Bob discussed a grant that we applied for that would provide a walkway from Pine Run Elementary School to the train station.

Marie discussed businesses that will be highlighted in the next newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM. The next meeting will be September 12, 2013 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Jackie D'Agostino