

New Britain Borough Community & Business Committee Minutes February 09, 2012

Present: R Belchic, D Byrne, M E Coia, J D'Agostino, D Fermier, C Forlano, D Holewinski, D Joss, L Moxey, D von Lipsey

Excused: J Gilmore Guest: Lynn Bush

At 7:30 PM Marie Esher Coia called the meeting to order and introduced guest speaker Lynn T. Bush, Executive Director, Bucks County Planning Commission.

Information exchanged:

Lynn Bush spoke about her long association with the Planning Commission (Exec Director since 1999) and her work with

NB Borough since 1989. Lynn stated that Bucks County is a known brand but is defined more by its economic past.

Other counties have found a way to create a coordinated economic development effort, while Bucks is fragmented.

There is no single point of contact for businesses seeking assistance. The Economic Development Advisory Board (see

handout) was created in 2009 and has developed action steps to achieve six goals. Goal 4 is to help existing businesses

in order to retain and grow them; goal 5 is to engage municipal partners. Bucks County Commissioner Robert Loughery

has picked up responsibility for implementation of the six goals. Lynn challenged us to articulate what makes our

borough special and suggested one thing is the presence of Delaware Valley College. We need to decide what we want

to be and how we will achieve our vision. She informed us that there are resources available to us, including the County

providing demographic information, possibility of federal, state and local grants; possibility of Bucks County

Redevelopment authority condemning and providing cleanup of toxic conditions at Bitzer property.

Ideas:

Capitalize on value of having DelVal in the borough and build relationship.

Lynn suggested we zone properties so we ensure we get the businesses we desire.

Investigate DVRPC Transportation and Community Development Initiative. CDI grant guidelines on their website. We

would be eligible, i.e., build SEPTA transit stop. \$100K grant with required matching funds of 10 or 20%

Proximity to world class medical center and patients have no access to a store selling medical devices.

Hotel or college dorms would be appropriate use for Knoll property. Lynn mentioned in the '80's John Knoll and Walter

Conte wanted to develop property across from Doylestown Hospital for a hotel. Use this to appeal to Gretchen Knoll.

Determining direction:

Fact finding; survey borough businesses

Organize data

Determine what makes our borough unique

Define problems/challenges/obstacles; include listing of underutilized sites (David J said they recruit national and local

businesses for a balanced shopping center. We need to help businesses align to college needs.

Establish priorities

Action items:

Lynn will approach DeVal president on our behalf.

Lynn will provide us a market profile.

Donna will contact Donna Walker of VIA to determine if Pine Run is currently providing access for their residents to our businesses.

Lynn will provide examples for DVRPC grant

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM. Next meeting March 8, 2012.