

New Britain Borough Community & Business Committee Minutes January 12, 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

This was the inaugural meeting of the committee. At 7:30 PM Marie Esher Coia began the meeting with introduction of members.

Information exchanged:

Marie Coia spoke with a member of Chalfont Boro revitalization committee. They have had four meetings and hired a planner. Lorraine Moxey spoke with Doylestown Boro manager, John Davis. Doylestown has a revitalization committee formed in the early 1990's by concerned citizens and business owners. They petitioned the Commonwealth to be in the Main Street program and subsequently outgrew the need for state support. The Business Alliance works closely with the Revitalization Committee. Doylestown By-Laws attached to minutes. David Joss said businesses decide on location based upon average daily traffic, population, household income, easy access for customers and what other alternatives customers have for services. Debbie Byrne said Chestnut Hill lost uniqueness when chain stores replaced mom & pop stores.

Decisions:

Marie will serve as the first committee chairperson; Donna will be acting secretary. Meetings will be monthly on the second Thursday at 7:30 PM at the Boro Admin Building. A member will not miss more than three consecutive meetings and remain on the committee unless there are mitigating circumstances.

Ideas:

Tear down Bitzer's site and create municipal parking lot. Make area around Duck Deli more attractive and walking friendly.

Publish Boro newsletter more frequently, feature businesses and add businesses to mailing list. Create a "shop local"

campaign. Create welcome package for new residents with information on businesses/coupons.

Determining direction:

Need to answer: "who are we?" "What makes us unique?" Also answer: "How do we enhance the look of the Boro?"

"How can we bring both ends of the Boro together?" "How can businesses support each other?"

Identify current problems by gathering data: market study; gap analysis; demographics; access.

Create short and long

range plans with specific strategies and tactics.

Action items:

Marie will contact Quakertown to learn about their revitalization efforts.

David H will contact Lynn Bush (Director, Bucks County Planning Commission) with an invitation for her to attend our next meeting.

Lorraine Moxey will invite Doylestown Boro Manager, John Davis to March meeting.

Donna will scan and e-mail committee members with Doylestown By-Laws.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM. Next meeting February 9, 2012.