

**New Britain Borough Community & Business Committee  
2012**

**Minutes September 13,**

Present: Robert Belchic, Marie Esher Coia, Chris Forlano, David Holewinski, David Joss, Lorraine Moxey, Donna von Lipsey & Lynn Bush. Excused: Debbie Byrne, Jackie D'Agostino, Dave Fermier. Guests: John Brown.

Chair M Coia, called the meeting to order 7:30 PM. Minutes from the August 9, 2012 meeting were read and accepted.

**Old Business:**

**Business Surveys:** 119 surveys mailed, 46 responses, 39% response rate. Marie, Jackie, Lorraine and Donna reviewed the responses and provided a preliminary analysis. Marie will write an article for the newsletter.

**Discuss potential design award:** Michael Fleischacker is interested in assigning his spring urban design class with creating designs for the 202 corridor. John Brown will set up a meeting with him and interested committee members to discuss possibilities.

**Summer camp and local businesses:** Action Karate and Build-N-Bots provided demonstrations for the kids.

**Bitzer's:** Has not come before planning to-date. We heard he owns a few DQ franchises in the area.

**Knoll Property:** Purchased by a Quakertown developer W.C. Weiss Jr.

**Newsletter:** Byrne Sewing will be featured in the fall issue. Deadline for submissions is September 30. Add John Brown at his DeVal address to distribution.

**Process for changing speed limit on Butler & Tamenend Aves:** Borough Engineer, Mark Hintenlang, sent letter to PennDot 6/27/2012 to ask how the borough should proceed.

**Project Design Grant information:** Lynn Bush will assist. Lynn reported that the Bucks County Commissioners have started an economic development initiative under Lynn's direction. Some things they can assist communities with are: resident survey "what makes NBB special?" Sponsor a town hall meeting to bring residents and businesses together. Researching grant availability; data collection; traffic studies; land use surveys; parking surveys; review of ordinances for business friendliness. Identification of assets and shortcomings in the community. Hatboro is encouraging businesses to patronize each other. Lynn will report at next meeting results from Perkasio Town Hall meeting.

**Island beautification:** The estimate for aeration and fall seeding is \$425 and is approved to proceed.

**SEPTA train station meeting:** Another meeting was cancelled between SEPTA management and Mayor Holewinski and is rescheduled for September 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM.

**Event at the shopping center:** Perhaps build around "Founder's Day" in May 2013. Form a committee with a Council person as lead and members from each of the borough's committees and business representation.

**New Business:**

**Delaware Valley College:**

Chris will take the lead in collaborating with the college on a Jazz/Art Festival at the college. DelVal is constructing a 450 seat auditorium scheduled for completion January 2014.

The college desires a left turn signal at the entrance southbound on 202. Cost is approximately \$20K. Robert will look into possibility of cost sharing to get it done.

Robert has begun a conversation with the college regarding revamping the student renter ordinance. It seems excessive and discriminatory. John B mentioned it is also very restrictive for property owners. Lynn has reviewed all such ordinances in the county and is not happy with any of them. John will call the Dean at Ursinus. David will bring up at next week's Planning Commission meeting. The Community and Business committee should continue discussion on what it means to be a college town.

Currently, the college and Burpee do not have a relationship. Each has expressed a desire to explore a mutually beneficial relationship. Robert and David will facilitate an introduction between college president, Joseph Brosnan and George Ball, owner of Burpee.

Marie announced that Jeff Gilmore resigned as a member of the committee due to a scheduling conflict.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM. The next meeting will be October 11, 2012 at 7:30 PM Chair M Coia and Secretary D von Lipsey are unable to attend. R Belchic will lead the meeting.

Respectfully submitted: Donna von Lipsey