

New Britain Borough Community & Business Committee
Minutes December 12, 2013

Present: Stephen Barth, Don Borden, Lynn Bush, Debbie Byrne, Marie Esher Coia, Jackie D'Agostino, Chris Forlano, Steve Gieseler, David Holewinski, Dave Joss, Robyne Kelemen, Lorraine Moxey and Donna von Lipsey. **Guests:** Dick Moxey, Mike Kelly, Chalfont Borough Council **Excused:** Bob Belchic and Dave Fermier.

Chair Marie Coia called the meeting to order 7:35PM. The November 14, 2013 meeting minutes were read and accepted. Robyne Kelemen was welcomed as a new committee member representing Council.

OLD BUSINESS:

Stephen Barth discussed his role and title, Economic Development Manager, encompassing land development, zoning and financing. He will report straight line to the borough manager and dotted line to the chair of CBC and will hold regular update meetings and provide a written monthly report. The borough will be advised of choices based on a fifty- year view. It is advisable to address some low hanging fruit to show the community early results.

Redevelopment and Revitalization:

Knoell Property: The proposal to build apartments on the site is not moving forward as presented. Stephen has spoken to three other developers and had a conversation with WC Weiss on December 11. WC is arranging for CBC members, Council and adjacent neighbors to visit the site.

November meeting update: Don Borden described the visioning exercise members participated in at the college. All who attended the session felt it worthwhile and a free flow of ideas were exchanged. Time did not allow the larger group to come back together and share the small group experiences. Don suggested another session to continue the process, members could not find a calendar date at this time due to the approaching holidays.

Three Strategic Themes: Lynn Bush provided handouts updating the strategic themes based on continuing progress. During the review, it was suggested that within all of the work product the committee has produced to-date facilitated by both Lynn and Don, that we should be able to pull together a vision. Further, perhaps the committee can work on the Knoell Property, college & Shady Retreat intersection to define development and design elements to be replicated throughout the Butler corridor.

Bitzer Property: Boucher and James have been contracted to review the environmental report. Robyne is a PE with chemical/environmental emphasis and she is also reviewing the report.

Newsletter: The winter issue will feature Gieseler Insurance in the spotlight on business. The newsletter deadline is January 2. A future article will feature the college.

NEW BUSINESS:

Keystone Communities Program – grants for business facades: Marie will ask Stephen to explore this.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM. The next meeting will be held on January 9, 2014 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Donna von Lipsey