

New Britain Borough Community & Business Committee Minutes October 10, 2013

Present: Robert Belchic, Don Borden, Lynn Bush, Debbie Byrne, Marie Esher Coia, Jackie D'Agostino, David Fermier, Chris Forlano, Steve Gieseler and Donna von Lipsey Guests: Joe Cossolini Excused: David Holewinski, David Joss, Lorraine Moxey and Rob Staudt

Chair Marie Esher Coia, called the meeting to order 7:30 PM. The September 12, 2013 meeting minutes were read and accepted.

Old Business:

Redevelopment and Revitalization: Lynn Bush provided a one page handout with her report, naming three strategic themes for NBB economic development: strategic partnership with DVC, streetscape and business support. Discussion added Walkability to the Underlying Efforts and it should be added to the Borough's Parks and Recreation Plan. The Borough can charge developers a Parks and Recreation fee and Lynn can help draft it. The Borough needs a development/reuse plan for Town Center, particularly the parking situation. An assessment of needs based on spending power of area residents reveals a need for the following retail: Book/music store; restaurants; wine and liquor and specialty food stores. Don Borden suggested the November meeting be a working session at the college to define design elements and establish a shared vision. We will divide into groups of 3-4 and divide the Butler Avenue corridor into major intersections: Bristol Road, Town Center/Sand Road, Tamenend Avenue; Shady Retreat; Iron Hill & College.

He asked that we each bring photos and sketches of our ideas/vision.

Knoll property: After no response was received by the Borough from developer Jack Bienenfeld, he was observed by Joe

Cossolini and Joanne Shaffer on the Knoll property with a backhoe and 50 gallon drums. Most likely he was drilling core

samples for storm water management. Joanne spent 45 minutes with him and he shared his proposed architectural

drawings with her. Marie will call Joanne for any additional information she may have to share.

Bob said the Borough

will have to wait and see what he may propose. In the meanwhile, Steven Barth will be apprised since he has spoken to

two interested developers about the site. A proposal to hire Steve as our main street manager will be voted on at

Council's November meeting and Steve will be invited to join our CBC meeting on November 14.

Bitzer Property: A patron, "David" at Duck Deli sent a note to Chris on his guest check. He is interested in purchasing the property and flatten the building. He wanted to know if Chris might be interested in renting parking spaces.

Brochure for incoming DeVal students about NBB: The brochure should be developed for parents and coordinated

with the Borough web site and Face Book under "College Community". Students use their smart phones to locate

services. There should be access to a map of the borough showing the business locations.

Newsletter: No response from Canaan Cabinetry, so Painted Shutter will be featured. A dry cleaner and a framing shop

will be added to Town Center in the near future.

New Business:

Keystone Communities Grant: Borough Manager, Robin Trembinski, brought this grant opportunity to Marie. The grant

money is awarded to towns that in-turn provide matching funds to businesses for improving their facades. Marie will

mention the opportunity to Steve Barth.

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM. The next regular meeting will be November 14 from 7:30 – 9:30 PM and will be

held at Delaware Valley College, Student Center, Coffee House room on the second floor.

Prepare for a working

session defining design elements and creating a shared vision. Members will bring

pictures/sketches of design

elements they like in other towns/college towns.

Respectfully submitted: Donna von Lipsey