

New Britain Borough Community & Business Committee Minutes November 8, 2012

Present: Robert Belchic, Marie Esher Coia, David Holewinski, David Joss, Lorraine Moxey, Jackie D'Agostino

Excused: Debbie Byrne, David Fermier, Chris Forlano, Donna von Lipsey

Chair Coia, called the meeting to order 7:33 PM. No minutes were taken at the October 11, 2012 meeting.

Old Business:

Business Surveys: Robert suggested that we present the top 3 issues in each category to the council.

Bitzer's – Owner is working with Tom Yatsky to develop a DQ.

Knoll Property: David J. suggested that David H. and Robert proactively meet with the new owner to let him know our thoughts for the property, the interest that the college has in it and our willingness to work together.

Newsletter: The deadline for submission to the newsletter is January 15. David H. mentioned that he has received

positive feedback about the newsletter. Robert and David H. are going to submit emergency management updates for

inclusion in the next newsletter. David J. mentioned that we should utilize businesses in the borough that might be able

to assist during an emergency, e.g. shelters, phone charging. He also suggested that any insurance companies within the

borough might be interested in providing a checklist for preparation of a disaster.

Robert mentioned that we should facilitate information from interesting business in the borough for Spotlight on a

Business. One example that he provided is a metal artist working within the borough that many people may not be aware of.

David H. and Jackie are going to work on a column from the Mayor for each newsletter.

Process for changing speed limit on Butler & Tamenend Aves: No update.

Delaware Valley College Special Project: We continued discussion regarding the beautification project that will be done

by Del Val students for a class held in Jan-Feb 2013. Lorraine is going to research trees that would be a good fit along

Butler Ave. Marie suggested lighting that looks like gas lamps, but these may be too expensive. Robert cautioned us to

think small scale because we are not Doylestown and we should have our own identity. There may be grants available

and he will ask Jeff Gilmore to look into this since he is researching other grants for the borough. We will ask John Brown

at our next meeting about grant money for Del Val that might be used for lighting and sidewalks.

Founder's Day: David J. announced Federal Realty's support of the event on the shopping center property as long as it

didn't interfere with businesses. He also suggested that we don't schedule the event during a holiday. Marie suggested

that a subcommittee is formed to plan the event. Robert said that he would look to the council for volunteers and that

he has someone in mind to lead the subcommittee.

New Business:

Robert discussed that the borough is going to update their website and that we should bring our suggestions to the next council meeting. Some of the suggestions that we discussed at this meeting included the ability to access forms on line e.g. permits and zoning ordinances as well as FAQs. At election night, 18 people expressed interest in participating in borough committees. The Advisory Committee is meeting next week to discuss how to get the individuals involved. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM. The next meeting will be December 13, 2012 at 7:30 PM. Donna is unable to attend. Respectfully submitted: Jackie D'Agostino