

ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting, April 6, 2016, 8:00 PM ET

The April 6, 2016 meeting of the Mansfield Township EDAC was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Mayor Shirley Kocher.

Present were Ron Hayes, Betsy Griggs, Shirley Kocher, Russ Onderko, Dawn Smith; absent were Elaine Drazek, Cate Oakley

Public: none

The team established a regular meeting schedule for the 1st Wednesday of each month beginning at 8 p.m. The next regular meeting of the MT EDAC will be May 4th at 8 p.m.

The team was informed that the County EDAC meeting is held on the 2nd Thursday.

Mayor Kocher explained that a scenic by-way commission exists and that Cindy Korczukowski and Ellen Nerbak are appointed officials representing Mansfield Township. The scenic by-way is in part responsible to help build awareness through emphasis of points of interest, businesses, etc. and that Mansfield could be highlighted in promo material available from that commission.

The County EDAC has recently been awarded a grant and has money to help promote businesses. Their past meetings have focused on agricultural awareness and farm to table events. Mayor Kocher agreed to provide information on farm owners so that the team could consider passing information from the County EDAC that may be of interest to this special interest group.

BIDs exist in Washington and Hackettstown, the team could explore ideas for working with these organizations.

Other ideas for supporting business and real estate occupancy were discussed.

Mayor Kocher discussed issues of vacant properties and tax lien sales and agreed to request detailed information for the next meeting. Mayor Kocher described the township's process for tax lien sales and an underutilized tactic of foreclosures that could be utilized if the Township Committee supports including costs from professional consultants within a Township Budget.

The team discussed recommendations for chair and secretary as well as exchanging emails with committee members. The team discussed rotating EDAC meeting attendance by all members, if possible. Betsy Griggs and Dawn Smith agreed to cover the May and June EDAC meetings.

The Team discussed recommendations for individuals they would like to approach regarding membership with the EDAC.

Next regular meeting scheduled for May 4, 2016 at 8:00 pm.

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Meeting, May 4, 2016, 8:00 PM ET

The May 4, 2016 meeting of the Mansfield Township EDAC was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Mayor Shirley Kocher.

Present were Ron Hayes, Betsy Griggs, Shirley Kocher, Russ Onderko, Dawn Smith; absent Elaine Drazek, Cate Oakley.

Public: none

Mayor Kocher announced that Elaine Drazek has withdrawn her membership from EDAC due to other committee commitments within the township. Cate Oakley was excused.

It was moved by Mayor Kocher to elect a chair for the EDAC naming Ms. Griggs, seconded by Ms. Smith. All in favor.

In follow up to the April meeting and the team's review of County EDAC initiatives, Mayor Kocher presented the team with summary data with respect to zoning and tax lien certificate properties throughout the township as provided by Bernie Murdock.

- 505 vacant properties
- 1,795 residential properties
- 187 Farm – 3A – Farm House
- 300 Farm – 3B – QFARM
- 63 Commercial
- 14 Industrial
- 4 Apartment Complexes
- 1 Public Utility Building
- 0 RR
- 369 Exempts

As the County EDAC has secured a grant and may have other activities of interest to new and small farming operations, Mayor Kocher provided the team with a list of all farm assessed properties. Ms. Smith will scan the list provided and share with the team.

In discussing the activities of the County EDAC, the team discussed ideas to gather demographic and other data regarding Mansfield Township to assist the team in forming goals and strategies that support the efforts of the County and also support the local community given the variation in demographics and business climate from other townships within the county and lack of a BID/Chamber of Commerce within the Township. Dawn Smith provided sample survey questions for idea generation. Mayor Kocher suggested scheduling a workshop meeting and the team to finalize a survey recommendation for presentation to the Township Committee.

Ms. Griggs suggested a tentative date of May 10th to be confirmed with the clerk's office for room availability for a work session otherwise discussion will resume at the next scheduled MT EDAC meeting.

Suggestions were discussed for best methods to host and deliver the survey to residents. Ms. Griggs will research SurveyMonkey.com both free and paid services and report back to team.

Mayor Kocher informed the team that a license for a taxi service remains available for application within Mansfield Township, a business opportunity for those who would be interested. Other businesses residents travel out of Mansfield for include sporting goods, bakery, etc. The survey will help to identify gaps in our economic community from our actual residents.

Mr. Hayes discussed the possibility of carving out Parks Committee within Recreation.

Next regular scheduled meeting is June 1, 2016 at 8:00 pm.