

Economic Business Development Commission Meeting Minutes January 23, 2020

The January Economic Business Development Meeting was called to order at 7:10 by Council Chair, Brian Livesey.

Attendance:

(Present) Deana Gunn
Brian Livesey
Jay LoBosco
Jennifer Jordan (by phone)
Anthony Caltabilota
Dean Fazio
Linda Martin

(Absent) Lainey Acosta
Nick Reeve

- Deana announced Brian as new Commission Chairperson. She will stay on the Commission.
- Dean was sworn in as new member
- November meeting minutes were presented and approved. (There was no December meeting)
- Dates for meetings for the year were established. Linda to send dates to Grace to post on website and will also send the dates to the rest of Commission

Recap of 2019 & Looking ahead to 2020

- Commission was formed last year and did what it could in first year; hoping to build on it this year.
 - o Vacancy Ordinance proposed by Brian was passed. Any property that has been vacant for at least one year would have inspection fees for improvements waived by the Borough
 - o Make Music Day – Sunday, June 21st which is also Father’s Day. Lainey put it together last year in very little time. We have more time this year and can start working in February. It can be longer and larger. Since it is a Sunday and Father’s Day, we could concentrate on restaurants, both on Main Street and townwide. Suggestions were made for a stage maybe on Little Street. We can advertise with the international organization. Jen said that there are only two other towns in New Jersey who participate – Montclair and Roselle Park. Jay mentioned that now that there is a funeral home on Main Street – do we tell them of days that they cannot have funerals like Make Music Day, Matawan Day? Maloney’s used to have a beer festival, maybe it could be coordinated with Make Music Day

- Chamber of Commerce Events – B2B Networking Event featuring a presentation by Google to be held on March 31. Installation and Awards dinner to be held in June.
- Matawan Day to be held on October 3rd (rain date Oct.4th). Date needs final Council approval.
- Small Business Saturday – Nov. 28th
- Public Information Officer, Cathy Zavorskas, to open up communication with businesses via quarterly communication
- Management Review Report ongoing. Feedback to Borough - they looked at all operations in building. Overall theme – more online.
- New businesses having problems – who to go to? Economic Business Development email to be made available to businesses.
- Car show in Matawan? Boon to Keyport
- Rook Coffee in Matawan – Dean to reach out to them and facilitate discussion
- Jay suggested we find out from landlords what type of business they are looking to rent to, what is square footage available. Court the interested businesses. Cost for rental is high. Per Deana, she thinks the space that used to be Aby's is as high as \$1,600/month.
- Specific Renovations in Town
 - Espositos relocating across street – full renovation; will they keep both places?
 - Gas station lot across from Anthony being cleaned out, waiting for plans.
 - The owner of A Salut is hoping for end of February opening – permit issues.
 - Brass Rail is putting in an outside area
 - Victoria's Cozy Corner did some work, paint & new windows. They are fixing up building and want to rent it out.
 - The co-working space at 175 Main is for sale
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm