

**MAURICE RIVER TOWNSHIP
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Tuesday, November 1, 2016 – 7:00 P.M.**

This meeting has been advertised in accordance with the statutes of the State of New Jersey.

Call to Order

Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Alliance

The Pledge of Alliance was led by Mrs. Gross.

Present:

Patricia Gross
J. Roy Oliver
Jack Kontes
Ken Whildin
Denise Peterson, Clerk

Guests: Karen Lee
 Brian Griffiths

Approval of minutes from prior meetings Ta

The approval of the May 10, 2016 and August 9, 2016 minutes were tabled to the next meeting as a quorum of members was not in attendance.

Discussion Items

1. Tom Imbarrato

Mrs. Gross acknowledged the passing of Mr. Tom Imbarrato who was an active resident of Maurice River Township who was involved in the Land Use Board and the Economic Development Committee. Mr. Imbarrato will be missed.

2. Dunkin Donuts.

Mrs. Gross stated the delay in the construction of the Dunkin Donuts is due to Pinelands regulations and requirements. It has been stated that another piece of property will need to be acquired by the owner to accommodate the required offset stipulated by Pinelands. Mr. Oliver stated that Pinelands has set 3 criteria that must be met by the owner and once these are met Pineland will sign off on the project.

Mrs. Gross recommended that the township concentrate on the corridor between Route 55 and the Causeway for potential business opportunity and growth. It has been stated that potentially another small business can be erected on the same lot as the Dunkin Donuts.

3. Fishtails Marina – Potential uses

Mrs. Gross explained the possible land swap between Maurice River Township and the NJDEP. The swap would include the township acquiring the Matts Landing Marina area in exchange for MRT properties. Under NJDEP management the current marina owners are not confident/secure in the lease agreement to expand or improve. Mrs. Gross explained that under MRT control possibly the lease could be longer and provide a confidence/security to the marinas.

The Fishtails' Marina is currently not utilized and vacant. Potential future uses under township management could include use by non-profits. The installation of boat ramp does not seem feasible as it would conflict with the marinas business. It was discussed that a municipal lien currently exists on this property. The township would need to lease the land from the state and pay taxes on the building if acquired under a Special Use Permit or similar situation.

It was discussed that the current buildings in the area are in need of improvement. In the swap the township would acquire the marinas but NJDEP would retain the dike area. Goal is to have a nice place to visit. Currently this area is neither cleaned nor maintained properly by NJDEP. Mr. Oliver stated he would talk to Michelle about stating the foreclosure proceedings on Fishtails.

Comments

Karen Lee, MR Heritage Society, explained she is the event coordinator for the society. Currently she is try to organize some events and asked for EDC backing, etc. A ghost walk is being discussed for next October; ghost stories to be told while on a walking tour. It was also discussed to add a 'sleep in the lighthouse' as part of the activities. Ms. Lee stated she is only looking for interest at this point and no commitment will be made to anything.

Similar events have been held in Greenwich and Barnegat. A fee could be charged. Details can be discussed at a later date.

Mrs. Gross questioned Maurice River Township joining the Chamber of Commerce in Cape May; this seems to be a better fit for Maurice River Township with more in common with those communities versus Millville/Vineland.

Mrs. Gross questioned having another business meeting in February or March.

Mrs. Gross stated that Mauricetown Fire Company gave the sign on Route 47 to Maurice River Township. Currently work is being done to upgrade the sign so that letters can be slide in and out for advertising purposes.

Mrs. Gross announced that a couple local businesses are participating in the 'Adopt-a-road' Program.

Mrs. Gross will check with Louann, Clean Communities Coordinator, to see if the MR Heritage Society is eligible to participate in the road cleanup program.

Mrs. Gross announced that she is hoping to have the website updated by the first week in January 2017. Members of the Municipal Alliance and EDC will be listed on the website.

It was discussed whether MRT should have its own 'outstanding business of the year' award. Mrs. Gross stated CDC does the Best of the West & South which includes businesses from Maurice River Township. It was discussed that possibly MRT wants to host a dinner for the local businesses and acknowledge the 'women' supporting the businesses; such as wives. Must first have the local businesses participate in the Best of the West & South competition held by CDC.

Mrs. Gross stated that for presentation at the annual fireman's dinner a proclamation should be prepared and presented to each company.

Mr. Oliver stated that he read in the newspaper that a bill was passed to support aquaculture ventures on the water and land. The pending legislation provides for exemption of businesses on the river and will provide viable work in the off-season. Permits will be needed.

Mrs. Gross stated work needs to begin to replace the township welcome signs.

Additionally an inquiry into the schools developing a mural for the Glade Bridge was made.

The next meeting of the Economic Development Committee is February 7, 2017 at 2:00 pm.

Adjourn

Denise L. Peterson, Municipal Clerk