

Town of Montville
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – March 20, 2017
7:00 p.m. – Montville Town Hall - Room 203

The meeting was informational as there was not a quorum present.

1. Call to Order.
The informational meeting began at 7:04 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
All stood and pledged the flag.
3. Roll Call.
Present were Commissioners Walter Hewitt, Christopher Napierski, and James Toner. Also present was Town Council Liaison Joseph Rogulski. Commissioner Karl Butzgy was absent.
4. Alterations to the Agenda. None
5. Remarks from the Public regarding items on the Agenda (3-minute limit).
Commissioner Toner asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.
6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to approve: -- **No action taken**
 - a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2016.
7. Unfinished Business:
 - a. EDC Website Design (Commissioner Napierski)
Commissioner Napierski reported that changes were done to the website in December. Further suggestions were sent to Commissioner Butzgy to forward on to Town Planner Vlaun facilitate the revisions.
 - b. Discuss distribution of the EDC M-BAP Pamphlet. – **No action taken**
 - c. Discuss the Montville Conservation and Zoning Plan. – **No action taken.**
8. New Business
 - a. Discuss the resignation of Dianne Williams.
Commissioner Hewitt asked if there was anything actionable that could have been done to get former Commissioner Williams to remain on the Commission.
9. Report on Existing, New, Prospective, Lost Businesses (Commissioner Toner)
Commissioner Toner stated that a list of new Town businesses must be requested from the Town Planner by Commissioner Butzgy. He explained, per a question by Commissioner Napierski, that the ZWO report received from M. Giroux lists Town blights and zoning issues. He also added that former Commissioner Williams felt the Commission was not doing enough to get the list of businesses and the lack of exposure by the EDC to potential/new businesses coming to the Town.

10. Feedback from the Townspeople and Businesses
 - a. Proposed Recipients for Business Recognition Award – **No action taken**

11. Report from Town Council Liaison Joe Rogulski

Town Councilor Rogulski reviewed the commentary from the February meeting for the benefit of Commissioner Toner. He stated that he had urged Commissioner Butzgy to meet with Town Planner Vlaun to move ahead the focus of the Commission. Commissioner Napierski added that the meeting was also suggested by former Commissioner Protz. Commissioner Hewitt stated a review of the protocol for the EDC should begin with the Pledge of Allegiance.

12. Communications – **No action taken**
 - a. Strat Comms Working Group Update

13. Remarks from the Public (3 Minute limit)

Chairman Toner asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

14. Remarks from the Commissioners and Town Council Liaison Rogulski

Commissioner Hewitt asked about attaining new members for the Commission. Town Councilor Rogulski said he knew of someone and would put out feelers on Town community forums for the same. Per discussion, the Commission charged itself with homework to foster ways to move the Commission forward. Commissioner Hewitt described the Commission as a partnership of individuals that he said was a start. Town Councilor Rogulski also noted that it would be good to have the involvement of Town Planner M. Vlaun. Commissioner Hewitt also said that the name of the Commission is a counterpoint to its meaning and current status. He said that “trailing events, being there after the fact” does not constitute “development.” He stated that he wants the Commission to “be ahead, acquire, and bring in development” indicating the EDC Strat Comms would provide clues to attract and further encourage future development. Commissioner Toner concurred that discovering what business should be like in the forefront would require the EDC to work in conjunction with Planning & Zoning as a helpmate for economic development for the Town.

In further discussion, Commissioner Hewitt stated he senses part of the problem with infrastructure may be from opposition federally. He stated that the EDC should and can act to get things done to attract new development to the Town to benefit businesses and residents but it would cost money. The Commission then engaged in discussion about potential businesses sites in Montville and agreed the aim of the EDC is to “not get in the way but see development action,” according to Commissioner Hewitt. Commissioner Napierski concurred that the EDC website and marketing would help the endeavor. Commissioner Toner charged the commissioners to attend the next meeting and bring 2-3 ideas for discussion.

15. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 8:02 p.m.

Submitted by: Gloria J. Gathers
Recording Secretary, Town of Montville