

BOROUGH OF BERLIN
ECONOMIC RE-DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 9th, 2010

Flag Salute

Roll Call:

Councilman Nick Maccaroni, Chairman Joe Adolf, Bob Suchowierski, James Knight, Councilman Jim Bilella , Rita Christenson, Dottie Trait

Absent:

Gary Knight, Mike Mrvica, Frank Seman, James Knight, Drew Straub

Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the minutes from February 16th, 2010 by Rita Christenson, and seconded by Dottie Trate. On Roll call members voted aye.

Discussion:

Chairman Adolf addressed the Carpet Flair building. It is listed as a warehouse/showroom with 2 bedroom apartment. This is in the downtown area and is in the C1 zone. The asking price is \$195,000.

Bob mentioned that on the DCA website, there is a listing of grant money available for the revitalization of low/moderate income housing. The Borough would need to make an application, we could possibly revamp the apartments so the Borough could possibly own them, and remove 2 units from the COAH requirements. The object would be to clean everything up, and make the downtown more appealing.

Rita asked if anyone has gone to Pitman. They have a main draw, their theatre. Gloucester County offered a redevelopment grant; there may be one from Camden County.

Chairman Adolf addressed the Mayors Fax Advisory, there is training available with the NJRA Training Institute. This is a course on the redevelopment planning process. Chairman Adolf will be attending the 3-day session in Trenton.

Chairman Adolf went over the cover for the brochure and presented sample demographics. We would also add photos of each location for the brochure. Rita has agreed to work with Chairman Adolf on this. Rita asked where would the brochure be offered? Suggestions were in the Construction office; and possibly add a link to the Borough web site, as well as distribute to real estate developers. Councilman Bilella addressed the façade treatments, and that being the start of something, and providing a focal point, rather than say façade treatment. We also need to look at Route 73 corridor, and bring in more commercial development to bring revenue to the town. Rita mentioned that Washington Township is a perfect example of that. Councilman

Maccaroni discussed signage as well, how the Borough is in favor of monument signs. Councilman Bilella commented the larger towns with the more dense population have more opportunity. Chairman Adolf commented that the perfect place for any type of large development is the Owens Corning site, and currently there is a sewer moratorium, which is being looked at by the County. Dottie mentioned K-Mart and the Dollar Store is a very busy location. Rita mentioned we need something to lure perspective businesses.

Rita brought to the boards attention Gloucester Township at Paris Caterers has an Economic Development breakfast, and anyone is invited. The Key Note speaker is Jim Florio. Loan Guarantees, and low interest loans will be discussed. It takes place Thursday March 11th.

Dottie discussed Trader Joes. This is not a franchise, and we need to find the criteria for Trader Joes to promote a location for them. Dottie has a petition that she will circulate to get signatures. We will also need to research who the developer is for Trader Joes.

Rita talked about Facebook as a way to reach people. Towns, businesses, etc. all advertise on facebook, and millions of people utilize this everyday.

Councilman Bilella discussed the business retention/exit interview questionnaire. We could survey the community by adding something to the Borough web site. Rita suggested bringing a friend to the next meetings. Become more business friendly.

CORRESPONDENCE:

ADJOURNMENT:

Bob Suchowierski made a motion to adjourn, Councilman Maccaroni seconded the motion.