

**BOROUGH OF BERLIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE MINUTES**

January 12th, 2016

Call to Order:

Flag Salute:

Sunshine Statement: This meeting is being held in compliance with the “open public meetings act” and has been duly noticed and published by law.

Roll Call:

Councilwoman Lynn Kupchik	Absent
Patricia Cummings	Present
Mike Latigona	Present
Kevin McHugh	Absent
Bob Suchowierski	Present
James Knight	Present
Carl Canfield Jr.	Present
Marie Ryan	Present
Roger Strong	Present
Bob Foster	Absent
Michael McGowan	Present
Michael Foster	Present
Genevieve Haldemen	Present

Election of Chairman:

A motion to elect Mike Latigona as Chairman was made by Marie Ryan, and seconded by Patricia Cummings, a second nomination by Jim Knight for Roger Strong as Chairman, and seconded by Carl Canfield, on the first motion roll call:

Patricia Cummings	Yes
Mike Latigona	Yes
Bob Suchowierski	Abstain
James Knight	No
Carl Canfield Jr.	No
Marie Ryan	Yes
Roger Strong	Abstain
Michael McGowan	Yes

Michael Foster	Yes
Genevieve Haldemen	Yes

Motion carries as Mike Latigona as Chairman.

Election of Vice Chairman:

A motion to elect Marie Ryan as Vice Chairperson was made by Mike Latigona, and seconded by Jim Knight. On roll call vote:

Patricia Cummings	Yes
Mike Latigona	Yes
Bob Suchowierski	Yes
James Knight	Yes
Carl Canfield Jr.	Yes
Marie Ryan	Abstain
Roger Strong	Yes
Michael McGowan	Yes
Michael Foster	Yes
Genevieve Haldemen	Yes

MINUTES:

Minutes from November 9th, 2015

A motion to approve the minutes from November 9th, 2015 was made by Jim Knight and seconded by Carl Canfield Jr. Those eligible to vote all voted aye.

DISCUSSION:

Introductions of the board members took place.

Chairman Latigona then discussed a current project that is being worked on to help bring businesses to town. We are coming up with a proposal to market vacant land via economic committee webpage as an external link from the Borough webpage. This will have MLS listings of properties by collecting a minimal fee from the realtors selling the properties. We need the website, our only means of social communication is through the facebook page. We are looking to get funding approved from the governing body as well. Councilman Badolato is on the Main Street Committee, we also have a Celebration Committee, and both can work with Economic Development Committee.

Chairman Latigona passed out subcommittee assignments with the subcommittees being the following:

Newworking: Lynn Kupchick, Bob Foster, James Knight, Bob Suchowierski, Carl Canfield, Michael Foster

Property: Michael Latigona, Bob Suchowierski, Roger Strong, Carl Canfield, James Knight

Marketing: (formerly social media): Marie Ryan, Patricia Cummings, Michael McGowan, Genevieve Haldemen, James Knight

Budget: Michael Latigona, Lynn Kupchik, Marie Ryan, Patricia Cummings, Kevin McHugh, Roger Strong

Welcome: Kevin McHugh, Michael Foster, Marie Ryan, Michael McGowan, Genevieve Haldemen

Chairman Latigona stated we are going to see if this project is viable, we will utilize statistical analysis on our web page. We can identify properties, create a list and the marketing subcommittee will do outreach. We will have a link to the Borough on our webpage. We have a budget now of \$350. Ms. Haldemen mentioned including residential properties not just commercial. Chairman Latigona stated the downtown area is our core mission. Mr. Strong added the fact that we don't want to be a real estate page, we need to be cautious, build on the commercial sites first, and build on that. Residential can be included based on feedback. Mr. Strong suggested highlighting 1 business each month, have a master list of properties.

Chairman Latigona will send out a contact list of all board members. Marie Ryan and Carl Canfield will work with the Facebook page change it to an internal page for maybe 60 to 90 days this is a Borough sanctioned committee. Chairman Latigona also voiced his thank you to all the new members.

Mayor Bilella thanked the committee, the current council has made changes to jump start the committee. We are currently conducting an area of need study, we are taking our Master Plan and moving forward we have a subcommittee looking at the zoning ordinances to help implement new businesses. Bob Suchowierski asked Mayor Bilella is there an attempt to declare certain areas a redevelopment zone. Mayor Bilella responded that Berlin has a true town history and we want to give incentives for businesses to come to Berlin. Mr. Strong added a suggestion that was talked about before with having entertainment on Sundays, we can work with the Celebration Committee on this. Marie mentioned to Roger to come to the next Celebration Committee meeting on the 3rd Monday of the month in March at 7pm at the BCS library/media center.

At this time all board members were sworn in by Mayor Bilella.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Carl Canfield made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jim Knight seconded the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Simone

Cc: Charleen Santora, RMC, Business Administrator