

Economic Development Committee
Borough of Hawthorne, New Jersey
Municipal Building
445 Lafayette Avenue
Hawthorne, New Jersey 07506

Meeting Minutes: March 17, 2010

Attendance:

Carl Schmidt, Chairman	Present
Frank Coppola	Present
Daniel Dailey	Present
Evangeline Gomez	Present
Councilman John Lane, Council & Chamber rep	Present
Anthony Spanedda	Present
Victor Terraglia	Absent
Mayor Richard Goldberg (optional)	Present

Agenda Items:

1. **Mayor Goldberg Discussion:**

Deferred until next meeting – Mayor Goldberg was absent due to a meeting on the flood emergency with Gov Christie and other municipalities bordering on the Passaic River. Dan Dailey will set up a separate meeting with the mayor to discuss additional committee actions to be taken re vacant properties.

2. **Councilman Lane Discussion:**

John Lane briefed the committee on potential new business uses for a number of the vacant properties on Goffle Road south of Wagaraw Road. John also provided a full set of permit applications for the relocation and restoration of the train station. Carl Schmidt will deliver the permit applications to the Volunteer Railroaders Association.

3. **Train Station Status:**

Carl Schmidt reported that the VRA changes to the lease agreement between the railroad and the VRA is with the railroad and awaiting approval by the railroad. Once the lease agreement is signed the VRA will proceed with the station relocation. Several borough actions were identified to help expedite the lease agreement if the VRA hasn't heard from the railroad within the next several days.

4. **Vacant Properties:**

Carry over discussion from the February meeting continued on the feasibility/desirability of the borough web site listing of vacant properties. Opinions of several property owners will be solicited for input to the April EDC meeting discussion.

5. Downtown Revitalization:

DOT Grant Application

- a. Carl Schmidt reported on discussion with the grant writer, Marlene Casey of Capital Alternatives Corp. Marlene said that she wanted to accelerate completion of the grant application from June to the end of March to take advantage of a new round of expected NJ DOT stimulus funding; that she wanted to receive letters of support and other grant material by the end of March; and that Capital Alternatives required a resolution approved by the borough Council in order to immediately proceed with writing the grant application.
- b. Dan Dailey called a contact in DOT during the EDC meeting and confirmed that a new round of DOT stimulus funding was expected shortly and was advised to get the grant application ready as soon as possible. Dan also stated that funding for bicycle paths is readily available if that would be fit for the revitalization plans.
- c. The EDC committee discussed what could be done to get the Council resolution approved at the Wednesday night, 3/17, meeting. John Lane took the lead and subsequently got the resolution on the agenda and approved at the Council meeting.
- d. Carl Schmidt distributed a 'starter list' of contacts for letters of support from borough, county and state officials and organizations and asked Tony Spanedda to chair and Frank Coppola to co-chair a coordinated effort to secure the letters of support based on their prior experience and business contacts. EDC members split up contacts on the list and took responsibility for securing the letters. Tony and Frank will host a meeting on 3/22 to select example letters of support and other support material for the coordinated effort.

Verdin Clock Fundraising

The EDC committee decided that the cost of the pocket park Verdin clock should be included within the grant application and therefore no fundraising effort will be planned at this time.

Ordinances Discussion

The ordinances discussion was deferred until the April EDC meeting.

CJ Schmidt 3-18-2010