

Lower Makefield Township
Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2009

Present: Greg Caiola, Supervisor Liaison Ed Kuszmer
 Ellen Scott Fisher Robert Smith

The September 22, 2009 meeting of the Economic Development Commission was called to order at 7:40PM.

Meet and Greet – Bob reported that the Meet and Greet has been scheduled for Thursday, October 29, 2009, at the Hampton Inn, from 5:30PM-7:00PM. The Hampton Inn will co-host the event, and will provide light refreshments in the main lobby.

Greg has invited Nancy Frick, LMT’s Director of Zoning Inspection and Planning, to provide an overview of the way ZIP works and to answer any questions. Lisa Huckler-Smith, Chairperson of the Disabled Persons Advisory Council, will also update the attendees on disability laws that might have an impact on their businesses. Greg will reach out to Cam Troilo to get an update on the Matrix project, to be presented at the Meet and Greet. Greg reported that there has been some movement on Matrix; plans have been submitted. Greg will invite Clark Shuster and ask him to bring information on the Lower Bucks Chamber of Commerce. Mark from the Hampton Inn will speak. Bob talked to Alan Dresser from the LMT Environmental Advisory Council about the recycling survey Alan sent to LMT businesses. Because so few responses have been received to date, Alan will be invited to speak at the next meet and greet.

Bob commented that we will be mailing to a much more comprehensive list for this event, including names of the businesses who took out advertisements on the map, the list of attendees from the last meet and greet, and a comprehensive list of businesses, with considerable information attached, provided by the map company. Bob has been merging the names, and would like to target Lower Makefield Township businesses only. He does not have a complete list of e-mail addresses; his goal is to get 100%.

A decision has to be made about who is going to e-mail the invitation. Bob will talk to Terry Fedorchak to see if he wants to have a member of the LMT staff handle it, as was done before; Bob could provide the e-mail list and text. Bob thinks that it might be a good idea to create an LMT EDC e-mail address.

Ellie asked if there is still a goal of having the businesses start their own chamber-type organization. Greg suggested that it is still a goal but that, thus far, none of the businesses has offered to coordinate this project.

Greg will ask Matt Fleischmann of the Yardley News to do an article on the event.

Map – Bob reported that a large number of maps were taken at Harvest Day, but there are hundreds left. He would like them to be distributed by the end of the year. Bob suggested that the next time we have a map printed, we should focus on LMT businesses only.

Signage – Ellie raised the issue of signage; she has recently realized the importance of having good signs, both large ones at major entry points and smaller, directional ones in the neighborhoods. Ed asked if there is any way that signs could be done in-house; the Township has a machine but it can only do road signs. It was suggested that, with all of the substantial businesses in town and with Matrix and Edgewood Village scheduled to do extensive development, perhaps we could get businesses to underwrite 4 large and six medium signs. Some of these businesses would want to be recognized as sponsors. The question was raised about whether the businesses which sponsor the signs would decide who would get the sign business. Greg mentioned that the 2008 budget had contained some money, perhaps \$16,000, for signs but it was cut from the budget at the end of the year. Some work has already been done on this project; Greg will get the file from Terry for the next meeting. Greg will poll the Supervisors. Bob said we should call a town or two who have good signage, to get the names of vendors. Ed will also get the vendor list from his company. It was agreed that this is a good project for next year. It was suggested that a first step might be an engineering study, to identify where the signs should be.

Minutes - The minutes from the August 28, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously.

New Business - Bob submitted copy to the LMT newsletter on shopping, dining and spending locally. It was also added to the website.

The next meeting of the Economic Development Commission is scheduled for October 27, 2009, at Christines of Yardley, at 6:30PM. Greg or Bob will talk to the owner. Bob suggested that the EDC might want to also talk to the owner about liquor licenses and the possibility of their hosting the next meet and greet.

The September 22, 2009 meeting of the Economic Development Commission adjourned at 8:5PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne Bray, Recording Secretary