

**Borough of West Reading  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**February 12, 2018**

**Committee Members Present**

Phil Wert, Nick Imbesi, Andrew Kearney, Robin Horman, Christin Kelley, Dean Rohrbach, Mark Ratcliffe

**Committee Members Absent**

Aaron Gantz, Brett Bagenstose

**Visitors Present**

None

**Call to Order**

Mr. Wert called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

**Public Comment**

None

**Approval of the Minutes**

There were no formal minutes to approve due to the lack of a quorum at the January 8, 2018 meeting. Informal notes of the meeting are available on request.

**BID Status Update**

The BID process is going well and meetings have been scheduled for Penn Avenue businesses on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Foreclosed & Blighted Residential Properties Update:**

- 520 Franklin – Mr. Rohrbach has tried to make contact with the owner, but the property appears to be vacant. It was suggested that Codes complete an exterior inspection for potential violations.
- 311 Spruce – currently vacant, owner is in nursing home; can be removed from the list for now.
- 306 Sycamore – this property is a short sale. There are some issues with the exterior that should be checked by Codes.

**Significant/Vacant West Reading Commercial Properties Update:**

- Narrow Fabrics Building – Construction is ongoing
- Designer's Place – Construction is ongoing
- 301 Penn – The office suite is still available for lease.
- 402 Penn – Has been leased to H2O 4 Life Wellness Center.
- 520 Penn – Has been leased as a barbershop.

- 633 Penn – Has been leased to “Georgiana Art and Style”
- 707 Penn – Nothing new to report at this time.

### **Old & New Business**

- 603 Penn – Fred Astaire Dance Studio – The property is currently being used as a church which is only permitted in the Central Business District as a ‘special exception’. Steps will be taken to inform the owner of the property that this type of use is not permitted by right.
- Strategic Planning – A comprehensive list needs to be developed that provides a plan for future economic development in the Borough. This can include design standards, architectural standards, parking, signs etc. Once a list is developed, it can be taken to Council for their adoption. Mr. Wert asked that everyone email him within the next week with a list of their top strategic goals.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathy Hoffman