

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

June 10, 2019

Committee Members Present

Philip Wert, Nicholas Imbesi, Andrew Kearney, Robin Horman, Cathy Hoffman, Christin Kelley, Aaron Gantz, Mark Ratcliffe, John Woodward

Visitors Present

None

Call to Order

Mr. Wert called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Public Comment

None

Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Nicholas Imbesi and seconded by Robin Horman to approve the minutes of May 13, 2019 as amended. **Motion carried.** (Members absent also included Robin Horman and Aaron Gantz)

BID Status Update

Mr. Ratcliffe and Mr. Wert along with others from the BID committee met with Julie Fitzpatrick of the PDC on May 29th to work at finalizing the project to get the BID in place. There remains some items to work on but overall the meeting was productive. The CRF will finalize outstanding items and set up the public hearing.

Residential Properties Update

The completion of the first phase of The Villas at Narrow is wrapping up for the first six townhouses. Four of the units have already been purchased.

Significant/Vacant West Reading Commercial Properties Update

- 301 Penn – A kitchen design company may be interested in the space.
- 416 Penn – The ‘Nitro’ bar/lounge is scheduled to be open in late summer.
- 433 Penn – Although the business is for sale, the property is not.
- 445, 447 and 449 Penn – The Codes Department issued a letter to the owner and tenant about the residential use on the first floor. The next step was discussed briefly.
- 637 Penn – A purchaser for the store inventory is still being sought.
- 707 Penn – Property is expected to be converted into retail space.
- 711 Penn – Nothing concrete has been decided for this location.
- 723 Penn – Mi Casa Su Casa will be opening in the former salon location.

Ms. Gantz suggested that 444 Penn be added to the list as a residential property that should be converted to retail when the opportunity arises.

Strategic Planning Discussion

- John Woodward provided an update regarding their master plan study that is being completed by "4ward Planning Inc." He noted some tweaking that needs to be completed to the 110 page document. He also spoke about the grant application that is being prepared for the 4th Street project that is being planned in conjunction with the construction of two buildings by Equus Capital Partners that will substantially increase traffic in that area of Wyomissing Borough. Mr. Woodward noted that he will be going to Harrisburg to lobby for the Multimodal grant application.
- The CRF's RFP for the planning study has been placed online at PennBid with two companies already expressing interest.

Old & New Business

- BrocMar Smokehouse is moving into the B2 Bistro location.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Hoffman