

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

NOVEMBER 14, 2019

Committee Members Present

Philip Wert, Nicholas Imbesi, Andrew Kearney, Robin Horman, Mark Ratcliffe, Benjamin LaManna

Visitors Present

Maurice Brown

Call to Order

Mr. Wert called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Public Comment

None

Approval of the Minutes

Motion made to approve the Economic Development Committee minutes of September 9, 2019 by Robin Horman and seconded by Andrew Kearney. **Motion carried.**

Residential Properties Update

Mr. Wert provided an update concerning the Villas at Narrow. Construction on the next five homes will begin on November 18th. It was also noted that the properties are already listed for sale online.

BID Status Update

Mr. Ratcliffe noted that the BID has been placed on hold until after the completion of the WRCRF five-year plan. This item will be removed from the agenda until after the five-year plan is completed.

Significant/Vacant West Reading Commercial Properties Update

- 301 Penn Avenue – Nothing new to report.
- 398 Penn Avenue – Dragon fly left and a new yoga studio will be opening soon.
- 416 Penn Avenue – Nitro Bar is now open, and multiple committee members noted that business is doing well. The Moto Club restaurant is slated to open soon in early 2020.
- 428 Penn Avenue – Plans for proposed land development have been dropped off at the borough.
- 423 Penn Avenue – Another salon is going into this space, which is currently being remodeled.
- 433 Penn Avenue – The Wyomissing engineer is drawing up parking plan for this location. Still waiting on the plan.
- 445, 447 and 449 Penn Avenue – Mrs. Hoffman provided a written update concerning these properties. A long discussion took place about how to move forward. More information is being requested.
- 450 Penn Avenue – Subway franchise and building are still for sale.
- 501 Penn Avenue – A legal opinion was given there is currently no zoning violations concerning the games of skill. A lengthy discussion took place.
- 530 Penn Avenue – A commercial Meadery is coming soon!
- 615 Penn Avenue – Rice is still for sale – no new update.
- 637 Penn Avenue – Be Mine Boutique is opening on November 15th and will be selling clothing.
- 707 Penn Avenue – Nothing new to report.

- 711 Penn Avenue – The owner of this property indicated that a Jamaican restaurant intends to occupy this space and is slowly progressing towards that goal. The location is still not ready, and is pending inspections.
- 723 Penn – Mi Casa Su Casa is still planning on opening at the location.
- 701 Court – Newly opened taco restaurant.

Committee members had a conversation concerning the possibility of hosting large events like Arts on the Avenue for more than one day. Mrs. Horman also indicated it would be beneficial to hold events on other days of the week as well.

Strategic Planning Discussion

Wyomissing was awarded the grant for the 4th street project. Mr. Woodward was not present to give a Wyomissing report.

No new updates on the five-year plan with Derck and Edson.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas Imbesi
Borough Manager