

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

**March 09, 2020**

**Committee Members Present**

Philip Wert, Nicholas Imbesi, Andrew Kearney, Robin Horman, Mark Ratcliffe, Ben LaManna, Aaron Gantz.

**Visitors Present**

Dan Horman

**Call to Order**

Mr. Wert called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

**Public Comment**

None

**Approval of the Minutes**

Motion made to approve the Economic Development Committee minutes of January 13, 2020 by Robin Horman and seconded by Mark Ratcliffe. **Motion carried 6-0**

**Residential Properties Update**

Mr. Wert provided an update concerning the Villas at Narrow. All the current homes being constructed have already sold. No further update at this time.

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

- 301 Penn Avenue – Nothing new to report.
- 398 Penn Avenue – Double sunrise yoga has opened. This property will be removed from the agenda.
- 416 Penn Avenue – Nitro Bar is now open, and multiple committee members noted that business is doing well. The Motor Club restaurant is slated to open soon in early 2020. No further update.
- 428 Penn Avenue – The final plans have been received by the Borough and Systems Design Engineering will begin reviewing. The Planning Commission will review the final plan at their February meeting.
- 432 Penn Avenue – The Citrine Salon now open – will be removed from agenda.
- 433 Penn Avenue – The Wyomissing engineer is drawing up a parking plan for this location. Still waiting on the plan. Nothing new to report.
- 445, 447 and 449 Penn Avenue – Instructed the Borough Manager to follow up with Dan.
- 450 Penn Avenue – Subway franchise and building are still for sale.
- 501 Penn Avenue – A long discussion took place about this property. It was noted that a current court case is making its way through the Pennsylvania Court System about the legality of the “game of skill”. These same machines are in this property. The Manager noted he spoke to the new solicitor about the situation.
- 530 Penn Avenue – Rebel Hive Meadery opening soon. Extensive work being done inside.
- 614 Penn Avenue – New Greek called Mazi opening soon. This property is being removed from the agenda.
- 615 Penn Avenue – Rice will be reopening. This property is being removed from the agenda.
- 635 Penn – East Ridge Outfitters – going out of Business and looking for a tenant.

- 637 Penn Avenue – former Pollock Building added to the agenda.
- 707 Penn Avenue – Nothing new to report. Residential property to watch. Nothing new to report.
- 711 Penn Avenue – Cherry's is now opening and this property was removed from the agenda.
- 723 Penn Avenue – This property sold for 260K. Waiting for further information.

### **Strategic Planning Discussion/Wyomissing Update**

John Woodward gave the Wyomissing update. Mr. Woodward talking about reassessments, train service going to the medical school, and Folino Wine going into the borough of Wyomissing. He also reported that Stratix wants to buy 200 Park Road. He noted that they are awaiting grants and that construction will begin soon on 4<sup>th</sup> street. The borough is also looking at three different areas for zoning overlay districts.

The CRF is still working with Derck and Edson and expects the report within the next few months.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas Imbesi  
Borough Manager