

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

**October 14, 2021**

**Committee Members Present**

Philip Wert, Mark Ratcliffe, Andrew Kearney, Robin Horman, Dean Murray

**Staff Present** Cathy Hoffman

**Visitors Present** Jack Gombach, Carl Garman

**Call to Order** Mr. Wert called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Public Comment** There was no public comment.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Motion made by Dean Murray and seconded by Andrew Kearney to approve the minutes of August 9, 2021. Motion carried.

**Residential Properties Update**

The construction of the nine remaining townhomes continues with walls and roofs already installed; door and window installation are next. Then the inside work can begin.

**West Reading Commercial Properties Update**

- 301 Penn – Mendez Flooring’s new space remains under construction.
- 416 Penn – Motor Club has not yet re-opened, however it may open in November.
- 428 Penn – Site preparation is ongoing.
- 433 Penn – Schweitzer’s Service Center property – no change currently.
- 450 Penn – New owner wants to open a bubble tea shop but can’t find staff.
- 508 Penn – New business “Betsey’s Boutique” has opened.
- 635 Penn – Former Eastridge Outfitters remains vacant.
- 703 Penn – ‘Lucky Finds’ Consignment is open and doing well.
- 20-22 N. Sixth – One new tenant has been found for the third-floor office.

**Strategic Planning Discussion**

- Wyomissing Report - Mr. Woodward was not in attendance however it was noted that Kimberton Whole Foods has purchased the property next to Sly Fox from the Knitting Mills developer.

**Old/New Business**

- Kevin Kozo still wants to get the railroad bridge repainted and is willing raise funds for the project.
- Mayor Kearney asked about the Opportunity Zone and it was noted that the zone still exists however the process is complicated. This was briefly discussed and noted that it is predominately compatible with large scale shovel-ready projects.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. by motion made by Robin Horman and seconded by Andrew Kearney.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hoffman

Code Enforcement Department