

Upper Mount Bethel Economic Development Committee Monthly Meeting

Minutes Report June 21, 2017

Tim Herrlinger, Director of the Northampton County Community and Economic Development Board or Commission, made a very comprehensive presentation covering the many aspects of economic development in The county and township. It lasted about 1 hr and 45 minutes. An MP3 recording of it was made and made available to the members via the secretaries' Google Drive online.

He made clear our preliminary task was outreach to the townships business owners to learn of their concerns, goals and wishes.

He described the staff at his Office and their specialties and responsibilities and encouraged us to work with them in their various capacities.

He discussed other regional associations such as Slate Belt Rising, which we would do well to align and or join together with.

We discussed the obvious primacy of sewer and water service from Portland to East Bangor, as an major initiative that should probably be given renewed focus. Members received copies of the Official Mt Bethel Sewage Plan, 1990, by Rick Fisher for background and review.

Lehigh Valley is ranked #67 of the 386 largest municipal regions in the US. The Lehigh Valley's GDP is \$37 Billion and is 20% manufacturing.

100,000 people leave the LV to go to work and

90,000 people commute into the LV to work.

He mentioned that the county consists of 36 municipalities plus Easton and Bethlehem, and 498 farms, which were in fact, businesses.

Other important agencies in this field were:

- Lehigh Valley Economic Development Commission
- Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
- Small Business Development Center, SBDC office of the SBA, based in Bethlehem.

Near the end of his presentation Tim mentioned a grant application which our Board could make to obtain preliminary funding for our outreach and marketing/ surveying/ polling efforts. Scott would get started on this CIPP grant quickly as it was due prior or near to the July meeting.

Compiled by Michael Kulicke, Secretary