

Upper Mount Bethel Economic Development Committee Monthly Meeting

Minutes Report July 27, 2017

Present were John Bermingham, Sr., Bob Schneider, Tiffany Hayward and Michael Kulicke

Stephen Reider, Director of Slate Belt Rising gave a presentation covering the activities, history, structure and personnel of his organization. Initiatives such as a Business Sign Program, Rising tide county loan program, regional cooperation for a planned 2018 Half Marathon and their Vibrant Economic Climate Committee were discussed.

John discussed our possible Vision, Mission and Slogan statements. The natural beauty and rural lifestyle led the list of possible references. Michael used the white board to attempt a brainstorming session of ideas for all 3 statements. That process invites far fetched ideas in quantity to later be edited and consolidated and refined.

Tiffany's Canvassing initiative was discussed, and supported. It was thought that until a list of questions and a database of local businesses are assembled, any outreach done in an adhoc manner could be reported in an email thread in the furtherance of developing a standard set of questions and topics to discuss with business owners and other residents.

Two days after the meeting, a draft script of questions was emailed to the members in response to an invitation from Tiffany to meet on a Saturday to canvass.

Hi my name is _____, and I am a new member of the just formed Mt Bethel Economic Development committee.

We are just getting setup and established and before we get going or even write up our vision and mission statements, we are reaching out to township business owners like yourself to find out their areas of biggest concern and possible ways the township can help foster a stronger local economy for our residents. We are considering both local shop keepers and companies, as well as larger commercial and industrial businesses to provide more jobs, services and revenue for Mt Bethel.

1. What are your most pressing concerns or problems?
2. How do you find the business friendliness of the township?
3. In what areas do you think the township or county could be most helpful to you?

Other emails were exchanged among members and including Judy Henckel, of other associations Mission and Vision statements.

Compiled by Michael Kulicke, Secretary