

# Meeting of Lindenhurst Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes  
March 18, 2015  
Lindenhurst Village Hall  
430 South Wellwood Avenue, Lindenhurst, NY

The meeting of the Lindenhurst Economic Development Committee was called to order at 6:01 PM on March 18, 2015 by Shawn Cullinane, Chairperson. A salute to the flag was led by Marian Conway.

## Present

Shawn Cullinane, Chairperson  
Marian Conway, Committee Member  
Darrel Kost, Committee Member  
Anthony Manetta, Committee Member  
Lance Walker, Committee Member  
Katherine McCaffrey, Secretary

## Excused

Robert Sweeney, Committee Member

1. Motion by Darrel Kost, seconded by Anthony Manetta to accept the minutes of the February 5 Meeting. Approved.
2. Update on Survey
  - Discussed a possible deadline of May 15 for the survey responses. This will allow for distribution of the survey at the Springfest.
  - More surveys should be distributed to the stores in the business district.
  - A summary of recorded responses was distributed to the committee.
3. Comments from Village of Patchogue Mayor Paul Pontieri
  - Began revitalization by identifying blighted properties that were stopping people from casually walking down Main Street. The improvement to these properties allowed people to feel more comfortable walking the downtown and increased visits.
  - Patchogue partnered with the Long Island Housing Partnership to create and maintain affordable housing units. The Long Island Housing Partnership maintains the property, screens potential residents to make sure they are qualified and deals with any issues the residents may have. A lottery system is used to select the residents.
  - These initial housing units served as an anchor to the downtown. 40 of the units are market rate rentals and the other 40 are affordable housing units.
  - The typical demographic of these units are 30-45 year olds.
  - Restaurants began to seek out Patchogue's downtown after housing units were built because of its walkability.
  - The theater is a critical asset to Patchogue's downtown. It has 1,100 seats and put 140,000 people on Main Street this past year.
  - Mayor Pontieri suggested that the Village look at the assets that it has and identified the Long Island Railroad Station as a critical piece to our downtown.

- Mayor Pontieri said that during the redevelopment process, developers were given a book of old pictures of Patchogue in order for them to see “who we are”
  - Since 2004, 700 various types of housing units brought in approximately 1500 people to the area. About 400 of those units are directly in the downtown. The increase in residents has led to an increase in restaurants.
  - Patchogue’s downtown has become more of an entertainment destination than a traditional retail orientated downtown.
  - A good relationship between the Chamber of Commerce, the BID and the Village is important. The BID has a part-time Executive Director and a \$157,000 budget.
  - A grants committee also meets to go over the application for Main Street grants. This committee includes the BID, Village, Chamber, library, church and fire department. The committee was able to take \$935,000 of grant money and turn it into \$2.6 million worth of improvements.
  - The increase in night life has led to an increase in the public safety budget by about \$150,000 in order to deal with things that happen due to the late operating hours of some establishments (broken windows, fights, etc.)
  - Street fairs and activities are important to the downtown. Alive after 5 events can bring as many as 8,000 people to Main Street on one night.
  - Parking is an important aspect to any downtown. Parking meters help to create the revenue needed to purchase property.
  - Mayor Pontieri also stressed the importance of parks in his community. Some of the parks in Patchogue are Wi-Fi hotspots, have shade structures, workout equipment and a putting green next all centered around the playground in order to make the parks a family place.
  - Focus should be on making people want to be a part of the community.
  - A resident asked Mayor Pontieri what kind of burden was placed on the school district after the redevelopment and increased housing? The Mayor stated that he spoke to the school board to discuss what the increase in housing would bring. He stated that his job is to redevelop the community and do things to increase the value of the community.
  - The Committee thanked Mayor Pontieri for sharing his insight.
4. Outreach to Community Groups
    - Chairperson Cullinane informed the committee that he has been reaching out to many of the community groups and that he will be speaking at the Business Improvement District’s upcoming annual meeting.
  5. Old Business
    - Downtown Inventory of Stores Update- a summary of use types in the business district was distributed to the committee. The inventory will continue to be a work in progress.
    - Suffolk County IDA Assistance- Chairperson Cullinane stated that there is a possibility of available Phase I funding and that he will have an answer after the business meeting on March 25. The Suffolk County IDA has partnered with the Regional Plan Association (RPA) for consulting services related to transit-oriented development. The RPA is currently working with the Village of Amityville and Babylon Village.
  6. New Business
    - The possibility of a future community forum was discussed in order to gain input from the public. No date has been set.
  7. The date for the next meeting has not been scheduled.
  8. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM