

Meeting of Lindenhurst Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes
February 5, 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 February 5, 2015 by Shawn Cullinane, Chairperson. A salute to the flag was led by Darrel Kost.

Present

Shawn Cullinane, Chairperson
Darrel Kost, Committee Member
Anthony Manetta, Committee Member
Robert Sweeney, Committee Member
Lance Walker, Committee Member
Katherine McCaffrey, Secretary
William Deister, Intern

Excused

Marian Conway, Committee Member

1. Motion by Darrel Kost, seconded by Lance Walker to accept the minutes of the January 21 Meeting. Approved.
2. Comments by Lindenhurst Chamber of Commerce President Jo-Ann Boettcher. Ms. Boettcher stated that the major needs of the downtown are more uniformity, beautification of storefronts and an architectural review board (similar to that of Babylon Village).
 - Legislator McCaffrey's representative for the Suffolk County Downtown Revitalization Committee. Ms. Boettcher discussed some of the projects that have been completed with grant funding through this committee (decorative traffic islands on South Wellwood Avenue).
 - Discussed potential future projects; such as the continuation of the traffic islands and making the downtown more of a "walkabout" village.
 - Said that the funding through the Downtown Revitalization Grant is for revitalization of some kind and can potentially be used for parking improvements.
 - Stricter enforcement of sign permits is necessary in the Village.
 - Believes restaurants, a theatre, specialized retail, outdoor seating in the summer, more walkways between stores and parking behind stores would all drive foot traffic.
 - Thinks that multi-family housing is needed to target younger groups.
 - Would like the Chamber to be more informed of new businesses that are opening in the Village.

3. Comments from Chairperson of the Lindenhurst Business Improvement District John Frenna. Mr. Frenna agrees that the downtown needs more restaurants and multi-family housing geared towards young professionals.
 - Stated that there needs to be greater contact between the Planning Board, Building Department and BID when new businesses are being opened. The BID application needs to be given out in the Building Department, otherwise some businesses will not be aware of funding possibilities.
 - A BID sign in the Building Department would garner awareness
 - Believes a master plan would be beneficial for downtown revitalization
 - Currently, the BID provides some funding for new businesses, updating storefronts and the summer concerts.
 - Mr. Frenna suggested that future funding should go towards surveillance cameras in the Village that go directly to the precinct. He stated that other towns/villages have done this and have seen a decrease in crime and an increased feeling of safety. Mr. Frenna would also like to see additional funding go towards increased code enforcement.
 - The possibility of having a full-time BID director was suggested in order to increase funding sources (similar to what Patchogue BID did)
4. Review of Proposed Survey
 - A rough draft of the survey was presented and reviewed. A few changes were suggested, such as defining the downtown area on the cover letter.
 - The committee agreed that a final draft should be approved and sent out as soon as possible.
5. Discussion of 2000 Suffolk County Downtown Economic Report
 - Darrel Kost did a review of the report and presented his findings to the rest of the committee.
 - Mr. Kost asked the committee members to rate the recommendations between 1-3 (1 being the highest priority and 3 being the lowest priority) in order to prioritize the recommendations of the original report.
6. Old Business
 - Downtown inventory of properties update- inventory is currently being done to include the previously discussed extended borders. Anthony Manetta would like a list of single story buildings that have the potential to become two story buildings be included in the inventory. An update will be given at the next meeting.
 - Branding of the Village- several ideas on branding were discussed which included creating a theme for the Village, changing the wording of “for rent” signs and creating an overall more positive look for the Village.
7. New Business
 - No new business
8. Other
 - Resident suggested a motorized walkway in the middle of Wellwood Avenue.
 - Resident asked what will become of the vacant OLPH buildings. Expressed his concern about business owners parking in front of stores. Noted that the lack of foot traffic in the Village is a problem.
 - A building owner would like to see stricter code enforcement when it comes to sanitation codes. Suggested that a cleaner downtown would increase foot traffic and business.
9. The date for the next meeting has not been scheduled.
10. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM