

BOROUGH OF DOYLESTOWN
Economic Development Advisory Board

Thursday, 4/8/2021 – 5:00 pm, via Zoom

Attendance: Otto Mills, Lois Opdyke, Rick Lyons, Jason Wood, Heather Mahaley, Brian Guerriero, Mayor Ron Strouse, and Borough Manager John Davis. Kris Boger, Operation Doylestown, Marjan Shirzad of the M

The **Minutes** from the March 11, 2021 meeting were approved. (Opdyke – Lyons)

Operation Doylestown Update. Kris Boger provided an update; the pedestrian zones and rotating street closures will be returning this weekend most Friday and Saturday evenings throughout the summer. The schedule, through Labor Day, has been shared on social media and the Borough and Operation Doylestown websites. Mayor Strouse discussed a recent merchant meeting which was held to encourage participation in the street closures by remaining open later. Although additional staff is often required, the merchants intend to meet again and continue to encourage more involvement.

Marjan was proud to share that the Fonthill Castle is now listed as one of the Top Castles of America. There are a lot of things going on at the castles in town, and most time slots are sold out quite often on weekends. There are outdoor movie events planned in collaboration with The County Theater. Additionally, Fonthill is partnering with the Bucks County Book Festival with in-person activities planned on September 25th. Visitation at the Mercer Museum is down 11% compared to this time period in 2019, and that number is just 2% at Fonthill Museum. They are cautiously optimistic that visits to the Borough are increasing.

Heather discussed work a friend is doing in Trenton regarding economic development and new ways for businesses to stay engaged and relevant. She suggested the group come up with questions and ideas to discuss in a future visit with him.

Vacancy Report. John reviewed several existing vacancies including the former dry cleaner on South Clinton Street, as well a unit in Market Way. The former Puck location is planned to be transitioned into a restaurant/café, including the outdoor patio area. The group also discussed the former Wawa property; it is being planned for a bank. The new Wawa is open with positive reviews.

Mayor's Report. Mayor Strouse reviewed the plan for The County Theater; they are hoping to open partially on June 1, although a grand opening event isn't planned until Fall. There is a Cleanup Doylestown scheduled for April 18th, with close to 100 participants.

Old/New Business. John spoke on upcoming outdoor events including the Car Show and 5K/Bike Race; many are still being discussed and worked out one event at a time.

Meeting adjourned 5:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Kramer
Minutes Secretary