

Borough of Doylestown Economic Development Advisory Board

January 14, 2021 – 5PM
Via Zoom

Present:

Chairperson Otto Mills, Lois Opdyke, Patricia Keppler, Heather Mahaley, John West, Rick Brown, Rick Lyons, Brian Guerriero, and Jason Wood

Also Present:

John Davis, Borough Manager, Mayor Ron Strouse, Jack O'Brien, Council President, Kyle McKoy, Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle, and Kris Boger, Discover Doylestown.

A motion was made by Ms. Opdyke, seconded by Ms. Keppler, to approve the November 12, 2020 meeting minutes. The Board unanimously approved.

Operation Doylestown Update:

Ms. Boger reported this is a quiet time for their folks at Discover Doylestown however they did meet with the new 2021 Board. Their objective is to revamp their website to expand upon services, restaurant pages and businesses that were open. Ms. Boger also reported Small Business Saturday was a success. Mr. Davis commented the Borough produced and distributed several graphics to promote through the website and it was the first time they boosted through Social Media and received positive feedback. Mr. Davis also commented on their "Mask Up Doylestown" signs, which was a success, received positive feedback from merchants and consumers alike.

Council President, Jack O'Brien reported they are forming a Committee of Council Members from Community & Government Affairs Committee, Public Works, Public Safety Committee, and the Finance & Pension Committee to encourage outside dining and looking at ideas to support business and non-profits in town. They plan to meet monthly and the first meeting will be held Friday, January 15, 2021.

Ms. Boger commented they are looking to do more in person events for 2021 handled in a safe manner. Events will be discussed at their February 2021 meeting. The first event to take place is the Easter Bunny Celebration, which will most likely be postponed until 2022. They are looking to resume the 5K Race this year with virtual capabilities. Mr. Davis reported they have begun talking about the Doylestown Memorial Day Parade however there is only 50/50 chance of it happening. Mr. Davis also reported that the Youth Fish Program has been cancelled for 2021, although the Borough may encourage individual use.

Stewardship Award:

Mayor Strouse said there were ten nominees. All members from the Board were present the day of viewing properties and voted. At the December Council Meeting, Council gave a presentation to the winner and awarded the property owner a plaque. Mr. Davis suggested for future Stewardship Award to consider sending letters to all those who were nominated and offer a congratulatory message.

The Board discussed Mr. Guerriero's suggestion to recognize the award process to allow for two awards. One would focus on new construction and the other ongoing stewardship. The proposal was favorably received and will be discussed further as the 2021 award process gets closer.

Vacancy Report:

Mr. Davis was unsure if the old Kenny's Building had been sold or not. 197 W. Court Street was listed for sale however now it's up for lease. Mr. Lyons stated Stacks sold, 41 E State Street is still vacant and the drycleaners on S. Clinton Street is going out of business. In addition, construction is to commence at 50 N. Main Street. Mr. West reported about a new business, Seedlings & Sprouts that has moved into the former Monkey's Uncle located on E. State Street and said that the Mercantile is doing very well.

Mayor's Report:

The Mayor reported on the very successful Food Drive partnered with the Borough & the Bucks County Opportunity Council and they collected over four truck loads of food and countless donations.

Old/New Business:

Ms. McKoy stated that due to the second shutdown in December, they contacted everyone who signed up to visit the museum and 75% asked to reschedule. The Museum decided to extend the Holiday decorations through January 31, 2021. In the meantime, they've been focusing on maintaining the grounds which included planting of 10 trees.

Adjournment: On a motion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55PM.