

## **Borough of Doylestown Economic Development Advisory Board**

October 8, 2020 at 5PM  
Via Zoom

### **In attendance:**

Otto Mills, John West, Lois Opdyke, Beth Ann Rinkus, Heather Mahaley, Patricia Keppler, Rick Brown, Kris Boger, and Brian Guerriero.

### **Also in Attendance:**

John Davis, Borough Manager and Mayor Ron Strouse

**Approval of Minutes:** On a motion made by Ms. Opdyke and seconded by Ms. Rinkus, the Advisory Board unanimously approved the September 10, 2020 meeting minutes.

### **Mayor's Stewardship Award:**

The Advisory Board spoke about the results and Mayor Strouse talked about the wonderful job Ms. Opdyke did with the Board on the day they went out to view the properties. With that said, the Board unanimously approved 187 E. Court Street as the 2020 Mayor's Stewardship Award. The Advisory Board continued discussion of the balance between residential and commercial properties and the definition of Stewardship for upcoming Stewardship Awards. The Board agreed to revisit this topic at either the December or January meeting.

### **Operation Doylestown:**

Ms. Boger reported about the Pedestrian Zone and the transition period to inside dining with colder weather arriving. Ms. Boger is working on a call with 35 businesses interested in participating for an interest with a large focus on "Come Home for Christmas" to shop local. The Pedestrian Zone will be revisited in Spring 2021. Mr. Davis reported on the upcoming Pedestrian Zones scheduled at N. Main Street, W. State Street and the Pumpkin Festival. Ms. Boger spoke about the Sidewalk Sale in which 35 businesses are participating this Friday.

Mr. Davis reported on Commercial vacancies. The following properties are for sale: Kenny's Building, old Zen Den Property, 80 North Main Street, Dutch Maid Cleaners, 95 W. Court Street, and 48 W. Oakland Avenue.

### **Old/New Business:**

Ms. Keppler wanted to make the Board aware of the proposed Hemp manufacturing facility on Doyle Street. Mr. Davis said that the use was in compliance with zoning but that clarification from the State Department of Agriculture is being sought since hemp legalization was fairly recent. The Borough is aware of it and on top of it. Zoning is content neutral. Ms. Keppler asked the Borough to be transparent as this is an emotional issue for the neighborhood. Mr. Davis said he has been transparent with anyone that has contacted the Borough about the matter but they cannot infringe on the property owners rights. Ms. Mahaley commented on the actual product they would be producing to ensure the Board knew in fact the properties of Hemp.

**Adjournment:** 5:57PM