

# Doylestown Borough Economic Development Advisory Board

## September 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The Economic Development Advisory Board met in the Council Chambers in Doylestown Borough Hall on the above date at 5:00 pm. The following Board members were present: Chairperson, Otto Mills, Vice Chairperson, Lois Opdyke, Rick Brown, Brian Guerriero, Patricia Keppler, Rick Lyons, Heather Mahaley and John West. Also in attendance were Borough Manager John Davis, Larry Browne, Discover Doylestown liaison and Beth Ann Rinkus and Kyle McKoy, representing the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle.

1. **Approval of Minutes-**

May 9, 2019 minutes were approved (John West and Pat Keppler)  
June 10, 2019 minutes were approved (Rick Brown and John West)

2. **Bucks County Historical Society-** Guest Speakers Kyle McKoy, President and Executive Director and Beth Ann Rinkus, Vice President of Operations

Ms. McKoy explained that the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle come under the umbrella of the Bucks County Historical Society and work together with regard to historical and cultural events. McKoy reviewed a list of ongoing and proposed projects at both sites. The Fonthill Castle Welcome Center is now open, new exhibits featuring new artists will be on display beginning September 28, 2019 and Fonthill Castle will run various guided tours with the help of many volunteers. The Historical Society will continue to look at ways to partner with Doylestown Borough and welcome a partnership with the Economic Development Advisory Board to bring in new businesses to the borough.

3. **Focus Group Discussion- Summary**

The question of whether Doylestown Borough needs a Main Street Manager or a recruiter to bring in new business to the borough was discussed. Is another survey needed to determine the needs of the business community? Many of the office vacancies in Doylestown are located in older buildings that may not work for current business owners. On the plus side, there are businesses that only want to be in the borough. Heather Mahaley offered to contact the head of the New Jersey Main Street Managers Group to speak at a future Economic Development Advisory Board meeting. Another suggestion is to review the borough's in house zoning procedure for better business communication. Otto Mills suggested this topic be placed on the October 10, 2019 agenda.

4. **Discover Doylestown- Larry Browne**

Larry reported that the 2019 Doylestown Arts Festival was probably one of the most successful to date. Many artists sold out of their wares, restaurants were so busy they ran out of food and the weather was perfect for both the festival and bike race. Parking all over town was very tight and Larry wasn't sure why the county closed the top level of the parking garage on this weekend.

5. **Board Meeting Time-** Changing the EDAB meeting start time from 5:00 pm to 5:15 pm was approved by the board. (Rick Brown and John West)

6. **Mayor's Report**

John Davis will look into where we are in the process of the 2019 Mayor's Award Program.

7. **Old/New Business**

Rick Lyons reported that he is waiting to hear back from Starbucks to see if they are on board with converting the front parking lot to a small park at The Fountain House on Main and W. State Street. John Davis noted that the proposed mixed use project at 333 N. Broad St. (the former Intelligencer building) will need a zoning change.

8. **Adjournment-** the Economic Development Advisory Board meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.