**Doylestown Borough Economic Development Advisory Board**

**November 14, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

The Economic Development Advisory Board met in the Council Chambers in Doylestown Borough Hall on the above date at 5:15 pm. The following Board members were present: Chairperson, Otto Mills, Vice Chairperson, Lois Opdyke, Brian Guerriero, Patricia Keppler, Heather Mahaley and John West. Also in attendance were Borough Manager John Davis, Mayor Ron Strouse, Councilperson Don Berk, Beth Ann Rinkus, Bucks County Historical Society liaison and Larry Browne, Discover Doylestown liaison.

1. **Approval of Minutes-**

October 10, 2019 minutes were approved (Brian Guerriero and Pat Keppler)

1. **Mayor’s Stewardship Award- Mayor Ron Strouse**

The Board discussed the nominated properties, the scores and the scoring process. Some

suggestions to consider for the 2020 award and to discuss at the January 9, 2020 Economic

Development Advisory Board meeting are as follows:

-Should a property owner be able to nominate themselves?

-Should there be separate awards for residential and commercial properties?

-Should we alternate years for residential and commercial properties?

-Should there be additional categories on the score card to indicate if the property has been

repurposed and/or does the renovation impact the community?

-In the case of a multi-unit property, should the award be given to the “property” or to the

individual residents living there?

-Revise the application to clarify the criteria.

-Change the approach to the community via the borough website.

Pat Keppler motioned the 2019 Mayor’s Stewardship Award be given to 278 West Oakland Avenue, since this property had the highest bulk score. Lois Opdyke seconded the motion and it was passed with a majority of votes. Mayor Strouse will contact the owners and invite them to receive the award at the December 16, 2019 Borough Council meeting.

1. **Community Surveys- John Davis**

-Revisit some of the previous surveys.

-Identify a purpose to develop a survey.

-Look at season ability and general needs.

-Survey questions and answers from five or six years ago my not be applicable in 2020 due to

changes in the types of businesses or the general population currently working or residing in the

borough.

-Bring questions and ideas to discuss at the January EDAB meeting.

1. **Vacancy Report – John Davis**

The report was reviewed by the board. There were several new properties listed; the former Blue Star restaurant and bar at 46 E. State Street, Enchanted Florist and Salon 39 at 39 W. State Street and two properties at 47 W. Oakland Avenue.

1. **Bucks County Historical Society- Beth Ann Rinkus**

The Admission Report for summer programs was reviewed as well as the projected attendance for upcoming events. It was suggested that the Historical Society communicate with Discover Doylestown to make them aware and to promote upcoming events.

1. **Discover Doylestown- Larry Browne**

Larry reported that the snowflake holiday decorations have been hung. Bountiful Acres is building a tree stand and will professionally decorate the tree. In 2020 there will be new light pole decorations and the current snowflakes will be distributed to the outer areas of town. Discover Doylestown memberships are moving forward. The updated pocket maps should be ready for distribution by late spring.

1. **Borough Council Report- Don Berk**

This is Councilman Berk’s last meeting with the Economic Development Advisory Board, as he will complete his term on Borough Council on December 31, 2019.

1. **Old/New Business**

The EDAB Annual Holiday Celebration information sheet was distributed. The venue is the Founder’s Room at the Doylestown Country Club on December 12 at 5:00 pm. John West will look into the dress code for men and will get back to Lois Opdyke.

1. **Adjournment-** the November 14, 2019 Economic Development Advisory Board meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Submitted by Janet Hedrick