

Economic Development Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 9, 2023 – 5:00 p.m.

Present: Otto Mills, Heather Mahaley, Lois Opdyke, Pat Keppler, Brian Guerriero, Matt Reece, John West, Kris Boger of Discover Doylestown, Marjan Shirzad of the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle, Recreation Director and Special Events Coordinator Caitlin Hernandez, and Borough Manager John Davis.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes – Approved as submitted.

Comprehensive Plan Update – Heather provided the Board with a brief update. The next meeting is scheduled for November 14 at 7:30 pm. It will not be a workshop but more of an organizational meeting to discuss the next phases of the process. It is the last meeting until after the holidays. The process is slated to last a minimum of 18 months.

Discover Doylestown Project – The tree lighting is on November 24. The parade has been expanded, and we currently have 17 applicants. It will start around 5:00 pm. The calendar is full of holiday events. Sunday, December 3, is the Grinch breakfast at Chambers. The dreidel has returned, and the Santa house will be placed too.

Doylestown Cultural District Report – Attendance is still up, approximately 12%, at the Mercer and Fonthill. The Michener and Mercer will be staying open on Black Friday. The trees will be placed in the Castle with all new themes and ideas. The trees will be placed on November 18 and stay up through December 31. The Mercer and Michener will be doing their open houses on Tuesday, December 5.

Doylestown Historical Society Report - None

Social Media Report – Caitlin provided the Board with engagement numbers. The numbers are up across all social media channels.

Economic Development Report – Caitlin updated the Board on new businesses that have opened in town and on businesses that have moved to new locations. Caitlin also provided a list of vacancies.

DART Report – There is a small increase in the southern route, and they are seeing more transfers at the shopping areas. They are optimistic that 2024 will be a little more “normal” post-Covid. Ridership is increasing, but that is mostly due to events and activities. Ridership is also increasing on the western routes, mostly due to a rise in DelVal students using the service. DART is still looking for advertisers for the buses.

Mayor’s Report - None

Old/New Business – The dining room at the country club will be opening in December. John is a member, so we can get the room. Thursday, December 14, is the date we are hoping for our holiday party.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Erika Fellman

**Economic Development Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, November 9, 2023 – 5:00 p.m.

Economic Development Advisory Board
Minutes Secretary