

**Harrison Township, NJ**  
**Economic Development Council**  
**114 Bridgeton Pike**  
**Mullica Hill, NJ 08062**  
**April 12, 2011**  
**MINUTES**

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1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 PM, Leslie McGeoch being the chair.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Members Present: Chris Knisely, Joe Pacera, Lisa Rysinger, Vince Gangemi, Bob Shearer, Niki Trunk

Other: Bob Dintino, Jim Salvino (on behalf of the Mullica Hill Merchants' Association)

Secretary: Ellen McGeoch

4. Meeting Notice Posted

Minutes and agendas are posted on the Township website.

5. Privilege of the Floor

None

6. Approval of Meeting Minutes: March 15, 2011

Chris Knisely motioned to approve the minutes, Lisa Rysinger seconded. The March minutes were approved unanimously.

7. Reports

Township Committee: Bob Shearer discussed the most recent Township Committee meeting. The recent traffic issues on North Main Street were discussed. Joe Pacera mentioned the addition of time to the north-south traffic light on Route 45 to alleviate traffic congestion, and noted that work may be delayed for two weeks to a month because old gas tanks were found on the site. Those present discussed the negative impact of the construction on Main Street businesses, especially South Jersey Running Company. The Mayor and Township Committee have become involved in resolving the Running Store's specific complaints, but Mrs. Trunk noted that the last time there were construction issues on Main Street, the Township purchased signs announcing that local businesses were open during construction. These signs should be used during this construction period.

Committeeman Shearer also shared that the Township Committee discussed the handling of property maintenance violations on Main Street. While mindful of the burden this puts on some property owners, all members agreed the property maintenance rules need to be enforced for everyone.

Planning Board: Joe Pacera discussed the recent Planning Board meeting where the Richwood town center was discussed.

Historic Preservation Commission: Chris Knisely informed the EDC that the next HPC meeting is this Thursday, and signs are on the agenda.

Mullica Hill Pond Committee: Jim Salvino discussed the dam project, which will begin in May 2012 for an estimated time of 18 months. Joe Pacera mentioned that the basin incorporated in this project should be shallow with no fence or have fencing that complies with our streetscape goals, rather than chain link fence.

Mullica Hill Merchants' Association: Jim Salvino discussed the recent MHMA meeting. Chef Mimmo is donating funds to have the Mullica Hill decals printed, and they will be available to all merchants. Leslie McGeoch read Pat Settar's emailed report from the last MHMA meeting. The MHMA is ready for the Antiques Street Fair to be held on April 30, and has done a lot of advertising and sent many press releases promoting the event.

Mrs. Settar's report also stated that the MHMA is interested in doing a Mullica Hill money or coupon program. Mrs. Trunk recalled seeing an article in the NJ League of Municipalities magazine about a local town with a similar program. Ms. McGeoch will search the NJLOM website for the archived article and share it with the EDC. Those present also agreed that if the program is sponsored or administrated by the EDC, it should be Township-wide, to encompass businesses who are not on Main Street.

Harrison Township Beautification Committee: Leslie McGeoch discussed the spring social and possible dates for an open meeting. Deputy Mayor Dennis CLOWNEY has received one bid for the lighting project and is expecting another bid next week. The locations for the benches have been selected (Tea Room, Gathering Room, Town Hall). The new planters are on their way to Mullica Hill.

#### 8. Action Items

None.

#### 9. Discussion

Material for Business Section of Harrison Township Website: All members discussed new material for the website. Niki Trunk is working on the Tax Abatement section. Pat Settar sent the bullet points that Susanne Rhudy provided to Scott Muscarella to see if he could make a friendly brochure, so Mrs. Trunk will follow up to make sure they are not working at cross-purposes. Leslie McGeoch brought up having "shop local" promotional information, and Mrs. Trunk recalled seeing an article on this topic in the NJ League of Municipalities magazine. Ms. McGeoch will search the NJLOM website for the article. It was agreed upon there should be a step by step "how to" section detailing how to open a business in Harrison Township. Mrs. Trunk will work on this as well. It was also suggested that the MHMA brochure should be placed on the Harrison Township website in electronic format. Ms. McGeoch will follow up with Suzane Golt to see if the file is available.

Networking Events for Harrison Township Business Owners: Niki Trunk announced Jim from blueplate could host an event. Lisa Rysinger volunteered to give a seminar on social media for the first networking event. The target is to hold the first event in the fall of 2011.

Economic Development Plan – Goals: Those present discussed distributing a survey to local merchants to get their opinion on their retention and expansion needs. Joe Pacera brought up filling existing properties, which would help current merchants. Niki Trunk discussed focusing on current vacancies in the town, deciding which types of businesses would fit, and bringing in those types of businesses. Those present decided the best way to approach this is to talk first to the owners. Niki Trunk will find the owners of the main vacancies in downtown Mullica Hill.

Business Directional Signs: The signs brought up by Joe Pacera in the March meeting to replace the current signs were found. The county said the signs in question could be taken down. Four to five signs could be put up along 322 advertising local businesses. Leslie McGeoch will contact Dennis Chambers in the Public Works Department to find out which sign company the Township uses. Also, the “Welcome to Harrison Township” signs are being redesigned and redone.

10. New Business

None

11. Adjournment

Joe Pacera motioned to adjourn, Niki Trunk seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.