

**FLORENCE TOWNSHIP
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
(Reflecting December 7, 2021)

MEETING DATE/TIME: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 7:00 PM
Florence Township Municipal Complex
Front Conference Room (Virtual Meeting)
711 Broad Street
Florence, NJ 08518

1. CALL TO ORDER

2.

ROLL CALL	PRESENT	ABSENT	REMARKS
Katie Wittkamp		X	
Marvin Wainwright	X		
Joan Geary		X	
Deepa Patel	X		
Rose Sullivan	X		
Joseph Bongiorno		X	
Councilman Paul Ostrander		X	
Richard Popso	X		

Quorum Present (7 Voting Members) Yes X No

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes from the meeting of September 5, 2021 were approved (Sullivan/Patel)

4. CORRESPONDENCE, EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

A. **Roebing Historical Society Scarecrows:** Marty Eckert shared that the Roebing Historical Society again this year coordinated a successful Halloween Scarecrow Contest. Dozens of displays were placed by individuals, local businesses and organizations around the circle on Main Street in Roebing. It was an enjoyable attraction for residents and families.

- B. **World Clean Up Day:** Bonduelle Fresh America's volunteered as a part of World Clean Up Day to deploy several members of their staff to complete a community clean up throughout the Village of Roebling. Volunteers walked the parks, streets and alleys picking up trash and recyclables. This is the 3rd year that Bonduelle has provided this service to the community.
- C. **Florence Township's 150th Anniversary - 2022:** Marty provided information about the township celebrating 150 years and depending on how things go with the Covid-19 pandemic the town is hopeful to have some events and activities for the community to enjoy. There will be a committee positioned to support these efforts and the school district along with local organizations will be welcome to participate pending circumstances.

5. COMMITTEES

- A. **Route 130 Corridor:** Mark Remsa addressed the committee providing information on the status of improvements associated with the Route 130 corridor redevelopment. Mr. Remsa shared that at the state level the projected improvements to Florence-Columbus Road is considered to be in Phase 1 of 3. The first phase identified the "preferred alternative" to the design of how the roadway and intersection would be outlined.

Step 2 would involve Preliminary Engineering and Major Surveying. Utilities in the area along with environmental studies would be completed to continue to create the scope of work for the project. Step 2 is an expensive phase of the project and is necessary in rounding out details in preparation for the third step of the process.

Step 3 includes the final design for the improvements, preparation and posting of bid documents and upon awarding and confirmation of funding the construction phase would arrive. This is an extensive process and Florence Township maintains communication with both the County and State offices in an effort to acquire updates as they are released. The Federal Government Infrastructure Bill would include funds for various highway improvement projects and Florence-Columbus/Route 130 corridor has been a priority project to push forward.

- B. **State Plan Endorsement:** Mark Remsa provided insight on the State Plan Endorsement that was mentioned during the recent council meeting and posted on the township website. The plan endorsement was something that began in the mid- 90's (1995) where 12 municipalities worked on a plan with the goal to revitalize the Route 130 corridor. The plan would serve to benefit municipal funding for improvement projects. One of the larger and more well known projects completed along the corridor is the redesign and adjustments to the roadways intersecting at Route 130, Cinnaminson Avenue and Branch Pike in Cinnaminson Township. The improvements created a safer and more efficient flow of traffic in an area that had experienced growth and increased traffic flow from these multiple roadways.

(Cont.)

The endorsement was granted in 1999 and ran for a 10 year term. It was continued forward in 10 year increments and due to some changes in how the plan is structured participating townships are going thru the endorsement process again. One component of the plan endorsement is the "Self Assessment" which Florence Township has completed and posted on the township website. The "Visioning" component is the next step and a lot of it ties to the township master plan which is underway and nearing completion. This combined with meeting with the planning and advisory committee which is scheduled to meet in the New Year.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Former Bank/Main Street Roebling:** The former bank building which is owned by the township has had the roof, windows and doors all sealed to prevent leaks or further damage. The next step will be to assess interior by a professional for safety as well as come up with a remediation plan.

- B. **New Business/Former Samman Building on Hornberger Ave:** A new deli/convenience store has opened on the first floor of the building. Hot and cold foods and packaged goods are currently being sold. They are awaiting final approval from the State to add lottery. The owner is very pleased with the following of students, parents awaiting pickup and walk-up traffic from the village. Marty and the township administrator have visited and it is a very nice store for the community to enjoy.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Florence Township Master Plan:** Mayor Wilkie provided that the Master Plan elements continue to be completed and reviewed. It is anticipated that the plan will undergo final review and be introduced in 2022.

8. MEETING OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT & REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Richard Popso – Noted that due to Covid-19 there is growing back log in construction materials across the country. Some developments are stalled due to waiting for supplies.

No members of the public were in attendance.

9. ADJOURNMENT – 8:15pm (Wainwright/Popso)