

**FLORENCE TOWNSHIP
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
(Reflecting September 6, 2022)

MEETING DATE/TIME: Tuesday, October 4, 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	
Rose Sullivan		X	
Joseph Bongiorno	X		
Richard Popso		X	
Councilman Nick Haas	X		
Bridget Wiese	X		
Mike Rinaldi	X		
Martin Eckert Jr.	X		

Quorum Present (7 Voting Members) Yes X No

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes from the meeting of June 7, 2022 were approved (Haas/Wainwright)

4. CORRESPONDENCE, EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

A. **What's Happening Flyer:** The township will begin filtering a flyer thru the website and social media identifying events and activities taking place in the community. This is a great way to update our public and then supplement the flyer with specific event posts including details if provided by the organizations hosting. Several local businesses sponsor activities and help to make them successful.

- B. **Boy Scout & Girl Scout Projects:** Throughout the years the scouting organizations provide wonderful community support and are active in various capacities throughout the township. Marty shared that there are multiple Eagle Scout projects in progress currently as well as Bronze Award projects established thru the Girl Scouts. Projects range from park beautification to remediation efforts of a local food pantry and planned remediation to an event gathering area at one of our local churches.

These organizations meet with our township, plan activity details, fundraise and receive support by donation and sponsorship from local businesses. Mayor Wilkie and Marty attended a dinner recently in support of one of the projects and reflected that it was both impressive and heart warming to see a gathering of such a diverse group of community members in terms of varying age, local business, organization representatives and new members of the community all gathering and getting to know one another while supporting a wonderful group and great project.

- C. **Recent Amazon Donations:** Marty shared that Amazon has communicated with the township every few months providing donations of items that are unable to be processed at their facility. The township has acted as a hub for some donations and has directed them to local food pantries, the county animal shelter and local organizations and school district. We appreciate the opportunity work with Amazon and other local businesses and support needs in our community or where appropriate.
- D. **National Night Out:** On the first Tuesday of August our township police department hosted an excellent National Night Out event at the municipal complex. This event brings the community together to enjoy a fun and positive atmosphere. It is supported by our fire and ems division as well as many local businesses and organizations. It is a very well organized annual event for our residents and those participating to enjoy.

5. COMMITTEES

- A. **Plan Endorsement Advisory Committee:** Mark Remsa provided that the county is anticipating activity this fall in terms of approving plans for improvements along the Route 130 corridor. We should receive more information on specifics during the fall months.
- B. **Small Business Sub-Committee:** Members of our group have begun hosting meetings to further discuss our local business outreach plan. There are tasks in place to finalize an introduction letter and local business questionnaire to be hand delivered to business owners encouraging them to participate. The questionnaire will be placed on the township website and shared on social media.

(Cont.)

The committee will review submitted questionnaires and will populate results identifying challenges that small businesses face and begin to work on opportunities to host workshops and/or provide resources to aide in the efforts to cure challenges. Another aspect of the outreach is to offer an opportunity to interview a business owner to learn more about them and the services that they provide. If they are comfortable to have the video recorded the goal will be to post on the townships social media platforms and create as a local business highlight and begin to build an archive for future reference. It is a great means to help promote local business and helps to draw patrons and promote sustainability for our businesses.

The committee is phasing in the project step by step with the goal of creating a promotion for the holiday shopping season encouraging the community to shop local.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. NFI Application – Lounsberry Tract:** This application is currently before the Zoning Board.
- B. Former Roebling Steel Mill:** Township Council is preparing an RFP/RFQ on the Roebling Mill site. This will allow interested parties to provide information to revitalize this property located along the Delaware River. Information will be placed on our township website and included on the township facebook page. The vision of the property is establishing a Waterfront District.
- C. 900 Richards Run:** An application was made to the planning board and is located in the Haines Industrial Center. It was approved to allow for a small warehouse on May 24, 2022.
- D. Florence Plaza, LLC:** The 5-story self-storage facility to be located on Harkins Drive behind the plaza where Dunkin Donuts and Tina's Tacos are located has been approved by the Zoning Board.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Master Plan:** Mark Remsa shared that the townships Master Plan was approved at Council in June and was set to be ratified in July. Various elements have been updated throughout the plan.

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

No members of public present at time of meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT – 8:00pm (Haas/Wainwright)