

**FLORENCE TOWNSHIP
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
(Reflecting April 6, 2021)

MEETING DATE/TIME: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 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		
Martin Eckert Jr	X		

Quorum Present (7 Voting Members) Yes X No _____

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes from the meeting of March 2, 2021 were approved (Ostrander/Geary)

4. CORRESPONDENCE, EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

A. **Boyd's Pharmacy & FTFD Easter Drive Thru:** Mayor Wilkie shared that the partnership between Boyd's Pharmacy and the Florence Township Fire Department was very successful. The event was held at the firehouse and roughly 100 cars pulled around the

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building and enjoyed being greeted by the Easter Bunny and members of the Boyd's & Fire Department staff. Boyd's Pharmacy is celebrating 98 years in business and periodically has refreshments or takeaway items at the pharmacy for customers. They regularly support community events and the annual Easter Egg Hunt has been an enjoyable activity. Both the fire department and Boyd's are looking forward to next year as they hope the egg hunt in the park resumes.

- B. **2021 Patriotic Celebration:** As we continue to monitor guidelines, we are looking towards holding our annual patriotic day flag raising ceremony and parade. We will be working on safety protocols for all participants and will be traveling from the Veterans Circle at Oak Street thru the Village of Roebling. It is uncertain at this time if evening activities and fireworks will take place due to the restrictions associated with public gatherings. We are hopeful that the State will release information associated with parades and veteran's observances soon which will be a helpful aid to our planning.

5. COMMITTEES

- A. **Route 130 Corridor:** Mayor Wilkie shared information regarding State of New Jersey released drawings (Alternate #6) of proposed roadway/intersection improvements for Route 130/Florence-Columbus Road. Mayor Wilkie explained that plans were scheduled to be posted on the DCRP website prior to our previous meeting however at the time of the March meeting they had not yet been made available. In recent years several renderings had been designed and reviewed for this intersection. Changes have been made in consideration of traffic flow, safety and impact on properties surrounding the intersection.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Palermo's Roebling:** Committee members shared that job availability information was recently posted for Palermo's providing thought that a reopening may take place in the near future. No official information has been received by the township at this point.
- B. **Roebling VFW:** Recently there was activity on the community Facebook pages regarding the flag depot being overfilled at the VFW on 10th Avenue in Roebling. There had been some talk that the VFW may attempt a reopening however no supporting information has been received at the township to date. It was shared that Councilman Sandusky suggested that a back up flag depot be placed at the Florence Township Recycling Center as a convenience for residents if the depots located at the VFW or Legion Post on Broad Street are full. Marty is going to follow up with the public works department to set up a flag depot.

- C. **Railroad Avenue Development:** The township learned that the commercial development project at 839 Railroad Avenue will be occupied by a large auto parts distributor. DNA Motoring will be using the facility as its Northeast distribution center. The outer shell of the facility has been established and privacy walls are set to be erected in areas along the rear of the property very soon.
- D. **Former Griffin Property (East):** The warehouse facility being constructed on the eastern portion of the former Griffin Pipe property continues toward completion. It appears that two companies will occupy the facility but specific names have not yet been provided.
- E. **Hornberger Avenue:** The building across from Roebing School looks to be opening a youth learning center at the side closest to 10th Avenue. This location and a barber shop are active businesses in the building along with the residences located on the 2nd floor. A staffing agency was a tenant for a period of time at the opposite end but looks to have closed.
- F. **Community Clean Up – Crossroads Development:** Marty shared that the association of residents residing in the Crossroads development had reached out to the township inquiring if they were approved to organize a community cleanup of the two farm field areas located on each side of the entrance to the community. They cited that thru the winter debris collects along Florence-Columbus Road and trash blows across the field. They were interested in cleaning the area in advance of the farmer preparing the field for planting. Marvin Wainwright provided the information of the farmer that tends to these fields and thought it was a very nice gesture for the community to take on this effort. Marty will communicate with the residents as to when they will do the clean up. They asked if the township may be able to provide trash bags and could stop thru the neighborhood following the clean up to take away the trash.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. **Florence Township Master Plan:** Mayor Wilkie shared that various elements of the township Master Plan are being reviewed by a sub-committee then will be submitted to the Planning Board for review. The Economic Development Plan will be updated per some of the suggested by the Econ Committee and a final draft will be forward for review upon completion. We will look to have this information for the May meeting.

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

No members of the public were in attendance.

9. ADJOURNMENT – 7:45pm (Geary/Ostrander)