

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM
BETHLEHEM 20/20 ADVISORY COMMITTEE
August 22, 2008 Meeting Record
Elsmere Fire Station, Poplar Drive
7:30 – 9:15 a.m.

Members Present:

Terri Egan, Co-Chair, Kenneth Ringler, Co-Chair, Steve Baboulis, Keith Bennett, James Blendell, Mort Borzykowski, Joanne Cunningham, Lisa Evans, Susan Hager, Terry Hannigan, Dick Kotlow, John Piechnik, Ted Putney, Pam Robbins, Brian Stenson, Bob Ward, Bob Verstandig, Jr., Christo Zemerling

Members Absent:

John Clarkson, Peter Conway, Steve Coffey, Cathy Griffin, Jim Lytle, Patty Salkin, Suzanne Traylor, Ann Wendth

Town Staff Members Present:

Supervisor Cunningham, Judi Kehoe, George Leveille

1. **Co-Chair Report:**

- a. **July 11, 2008 Meeting Record:** The draft meeting record was approved without amendment.
- b. **Update on July Action Items:**
 - **Detailed Action Plan and Revised Schedule:** The detailed action plan and revised schedule was completed and distributed to the committee.
 - **Town Competitive Set Information:** Co-Chair Egan indicated that this item should be deferred for the time being given the orientation of the detailed action plan to a more general level of recommendations. The committee concurred.
- c. **Communications Sub-Committee:** Co-Chair Egan indicated that it would become increasingly important for the 20/20 committee to inform community members about its initiatives including the community survey. Towards this end, she reported that Ann Wendth had offered to chair the sub-committee and Steve Baboulis, Terry Hannigan and John Piechnik agreed to serve on the sub-committee.
- d. **Financial Modeling Sub-Committee:** At the request of Mr. Leveille, Co-Chair Egan asked for volunteers to serve on a sub-committee that would assist staff and its outside consultant in developing financial models for the committee's consideration. Mort Borzykowski, Dick Kotlow, Brian Stenson and Jack Cunningham volunteered to serve on this sub-committee.
- e. **September Meeting Date Change:** Based on schedule conflicts, the committee agreed to change the date of the September committee meeting from September 12 to September 19.

2. **Report of the Community Survey Sub-Committee:**

Sub-committee chair Pam Robbins provided a brief report on the first meeting of the sub-committee, which was held on July 30, 2008 in Cathy Griffin's office. She reported that the committee reviewed the 2004 community survey process and findings, had a lengthy discussion about the survey goals, identified the roles and responsibilities of the individuals and organizations that would implement the survey, and discussed a schedule that targeted distribution of the survey

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM
BETHLEHEM 20/20 ADVISORY COMMITTEE
August 22, 2008 Meeting Record
Elsmere Fire Station, Poplar Drive
7:30 – 9:15 a.m.

in January or February 2009. The next sub-committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 4, 2008 at 7:45 AM in Cathy Griffin's office.

3. **Group Discussion: Detailed Action Plan and Revised Schedule**

The committee suggested a few minor changes to the draft documents prepared by George Leveille. During the discussion that followed, a common theme was the need to engage the public in the 20/20 conversation. It was also mentioned that the Town is somewhat fractured as a community because of the sheer size and diversity of development in the Town. It was also indicated that the Town has historically been more reactive than proactive, somewhat as a result of the short term of office (2 years) of the Town Supervisor.

4. **Presentation: Overview of Economic Development Opportunities and Constraints**

George Leveille made a power point presentation entitled Town of Bethlehem Economic Development Framework. The presentation included the following:

- a. A town-wide map depicting areas for economic development;
- b. An overview of the comprehensive plan framework for economic development;
- c. An overview of comp plan implementation elements related to economic development including amendments to the Town's land use laws and regulations, the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP), the Route 9W Linkage Study, and the Vista Technology Campus project;
- d. An overview of the major economic development locations throughout the Town including the Rt. 144 Sub-Port and Central Districts, the Rt. 9W North and Central Districts, the Delaware Ave. corridor in Elsmere and Delmar, the Slingerlands and Rt. 85 corridor, the Feura Bush/ Selkirk Rail Yards area, and various hamlet districts;
- e. An overview of the Empire Zones program and the Bethlehem Industrial development Agency.

A brief discussion followed the presentation and among the highlights of the discussion were the following:

- Concern about traffic and the need for a town-wide transportation plan;
- The potential for acquisition of land for development of an agricultural incubator;
- Given the budgetary woes of the Federal and State governments, consideration should be given to establishing a local transportation fund to assist in implementing transportation improvements

Action Items:

1. **September Meeting Date Change:** The September meeting date was moved from Friday, September 12 to Friday, September 19, 2008.

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM
BETHLEHEM 20/20 ADVISORY COMMITTEE
August 22, 2008 Meeting Record
Elsmere Fire Station, Poplar Drive
7:30 – 9:15 a.m.

2. **Organize Communications and Financial Modeling Sub-Committees:** Staff will contact the members who volunteered to serve on these two sub-committees in order to begin organizing their work.

Next Meeting:

Friday, September 19, 2008, Elsmere Fire Station, 7:30 – 9:15 AM

To submit comments and questions, contact:

George Leveille, gleveille@townofbethlehem.org, 518.439.4955 x1129