

Meeting Notes

20/20 Economic Development Sub-Committee

Time and date: 7:30 AM, Monday, May 9, 2011

Location: Town Hall Room 101

Attendees: Steve Baboulis, Keith Bennett, John Guastella, George Leveille, Joe Richardson, Brian Stenson

Staff present: Mike Morelli, Terry Ritz, Robin Nagengast

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- 1. Review of April 8, 2011 Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes were accepted.
 - 2. Vista Tech Campus update:** The PILOT resolution goes before the Albany County Legislature this evening. The last step is the sale of the bonds. Joe Richardson updated the sub-committee on the status of the preliminary interest in the bond offering as provided by the Bethlehem Industrial Development Agency's financial advisor. Terry Ritz provided an update on the RFP process. The closing is now expected to be the second week of June.
 - 3. Town-wide economic development partnership update:** George Leveille would like to prepare the next steps for partnering with the BIDA and present at a future meeting of the Finance Committee, if appropriate. The committee also discussed the importance of building capacity at the BIDA now that significant fee income would be flowing to the BIDA. George Leveille was asked to provide background information on the partnership concept for the next meeting.
 - 4. Commercial district adaptive reuse:** There was a discussion of the data that was compiled in response to a concern raised about the number of vacant storefronts on Delaware Avenue. It was found that there is approximately 5,000 square feet of vacant space with no specific plans for a tenant. This is out of an estimated total of 200,000 square feet of commercial space. There was further discussion of consideration of design guidelines and best practices for encouraging improvements to commercial storefronts on Delaware Avenue. George Leveille offered to take the lead in compiling the information and will report back to the sub-committee at its next meeting.
 - 5. Other:** There was a discussion of whether there have been any recent developments concerning a new Thruway Interchange at Creble Road and a possible new contact in the Selkirk Yards area to fill Christo Zemerling's role. Keith Bennett offered to reach out to CSX to see if they would play a more active role in the broader Selkirk Yards Industrial District initiative.
 - 6. Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the sub-committee is scheduled for Monday, June 13, at 7:30 AM in Town Hall.