

VERNON TOWNSHIP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 16, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Called to Order at 7:15pm

Chairperson Rinker read the Statement of Compliance and lead the flag salute.

Present:

Sally Rinker, Chairperson

Jennifer Lubliner, Vice Chairperson

Michael Gelfand

Susan Berkley

Jason Pierce

Heidi LeBris

Absent:

Keren Gonen

Nick Pirro

Peter Knipe

Mary Beth Ziba

Carl Contino

VOTE ON MINUTES

Michael Gelfand motioned to approve the April 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Jason Pierce. All were in favor.

DISCUSSION OF GOALS

The committee reviewed specific goals discussed at our last meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the identified goals and if they can be condensed for more actionable goals. Discussion continued regarding target areas for development and optional industries. The committee members agreed to first await the roll out of the community survey and gather the results to guide priorities and identify focus areas. Discussion would continue at our next meeting.

TOWN SURVEY

Susan Berkley shared the updated draft of the town survey which included feedback from the members. The Committee members discussed the format and made some changes with further discussion on where/how to share the survey. Motion by Susan Berkley to approve the survey as updated, with Susan Berkley and Jason Pierce working on the link/QR code, seconded by Michael Gelfand, all were in favor. Sally Rinker will send final draft to the Mayor for posting on the town website and committee members will share with the community, via social media, as well.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Susan Berkley motioned to open the meeting to public participation, Michael Gelfand seconded, all were in favor. Councilwoman Peg Distasi expressed support for the town survey and shared ideas for development areas. She then stated her comment were from her personally, and not representing the Council.

Seeing no other members of the public wishing to comment, Heidi LeBris motioned to close the public participation, Susan Berkley seconded, all were in favor.

MEMBERS COMMENTS

Heidi LeBris expressed satisfaction about the survey.

Sally Rinker mentioned a recent visit to Jason's photography studio in town center and that is was very professionally set as was his work. She stated she would reach out for potential dates to present to the town council and will check the calendar to confirm everyone will be available. Sally Rinker expressed interest in having a presentation on the Scenic Byway at our next meeting on 6/20/2023 stating it would be a very worthwhile presentation that shows the byway's ties to economic development and would be educational for the committee.

No other member comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Heidi LeBris motioned to adjourn the meeting, Jason Pierce seconded, all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Rinker

EDC Chair