

Economic Development, Business & Redevelopment Commission
Meeting Minutes February 23, 2023
Held at Borough Hall

Meeting was called to order at 7:05

Attendance:	Brian Livesey	Steven Russell
Present:	Jay LoBosco	Jeffrey Kagan
	Cathy Zavorskas	Linda Martin
Absent:	Deana Gunn, Dean Fazio, Joel Pascua, Joseph Rizzuto, James McCue	

Minutes of the February 2nd meeting were presented; Jay made motion to approve, Jeff seconded, minutes approved.

Brochures - Cathy & Deana worked with graphic artist. Cathy presented preliminary version. Purpose will be to show Matawan is a great place to live, play, eat and do business.

Steps to Opening a Business – Cathy presented trifold draft. 1st version. These steps will also go on the website so that there are less complicated clicks to get the full picture. Cathy & Jeff to work on a flow chart.

Chief Falco sent the flyer for the **Safe Place Program** to Deana which she shared via email with Brian, Linda & Cathy to be distributed to Matawan businesses. Flyer was a version of the Monmouth County flyer with the Matawan police logo on top and contact information of Sgt. Ryba, the Matawan officer in charge of operation. Interested businesses are to contact him for info & kits.

Linda will post the notice in the Chamber newsletter along with the Aberdeen information. She mentioned that during her conversation with Carmine Visone of the Aberdeen Economic Business Council regarding their program, he had asked if Matawan participated in the Knox Box program with the Fire Dept. The fire department has a master key to open all Knox boxes at businesses so that if they are called to a fire they are able to open the box and get the key while not damaging premises by breaking down doors & windows. Brian will look into this program for Matawan.

Upcoming Events

Blues & Cruise Night to be held on May 24th.

- Cathy, Jay, Deana & Brian met with DJ Hot Rod Mike to give him a tour of Main Street. He liked the layout. It was decided to hire him. Brian asked for Cathy to look into whether he has insurance and a reschedule plan. Cathy to check with Kevin of Scalia Funeral Home regarding electricity for DJ. Linda to notify Steve Mamakas that another organizer was chosen.
- Vendors to be contacted by Linda and Jay. It was decided to charge \$40 for vendors and \$150 for food trucks. It was also decided that recipients should be switched each year so we are not locked into supporting only one particular charity.
- Proceeds will be split between Habitat for Humanity and Bayshore EMS. Chamber of Commerce will handle fees and use their gateway for credit card payments. Chamber Board of Directors requested that recipients of funds were members of the

Chamber. Habitat is presently a member and Bayshore EMS will become a member via a portion of the proceeds.

- Jay to contact Jazz and Blues Foundation for the band
- Local restaurants to be contacted first then we will open it up to food trucks

Matawan Day – set for October 7th with raindate of October 8th.

Chamber Events

- The Annual Installation & Awards Dinner at MJ's from 6:00 – 9:30 on Tuesday, May 9th. All are welcome to attend.
- Networking events in March include a luncheon at DiBari's on March 7th and an after hours Meet & Greet at Cross of Glory in Aberdeen with MJXpressions Special Needs Dance Group giving a performance.

5K Race

- Donut Chase June 10th sponsored by Main Street Donuts. Discussion about where to hold it without closing down Main Street. Possible to go through both Matawan and Aberdeen. Possibilities include Little to Atlantic to High School or starting at Gravely Park and going along Henry Hudson trail.

Farmers Market

- Recreation Department will hold the farmers market on Fridays at the train station. EDB Commission will request that they involve the town businesses.

Ongoing Items

- Cathy investigated membership in Main St USA and found it was geared more towards large towns. Downtown NJ might be better and more in tune with the Matawan goals & objectives.
- Brian/Deana conducted legal research into the Abandoned Property Law and Vacant Business Law.
- Something should be done with empty businesses aka eye sores. Jay had conversations with people looking to open music shops or clothing stores who were not interested in the town unless they saw some signs of towards improvement. Other towns we could look at for guidance were Clinton & Keyport. To be noted - Keyport has proactive landlords.
- Brian mentioned that the town does not have a Property Maintenance Officer. He suggested that a way to get something done would be for more people to attend the Planning & Zoning Board mtgs.
- He also said there was talk of eventually tearing down the old police station for a parking lot.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30
Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Martin
Recording Secretary
Economic Development Business & Redevelopment Commission of Matawan