

**BOROUGH OF TUCKERTON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES: Tuesday – March 2, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman Jon Miller at 7:00 PM. The Open Public Meeting Act statement was read by the Secretary. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Jon Miller.

Roll Call:

	Danielle Corso	Matt Edson	Renee Gioiello	Jon Miller	Rob Perotti
Present		X	X	X	X
Absent	X				

Also, In Attendance:

	Mayor Sue Marshall	Councilman Ron Peterson
Present	X	X
Absent		

Recording of Hours:

Danielle Corso - Absent Matt Edson – 6 Renee Gioiello – 6 Jon Miller – 8 Rob Perotti – 5

Approval of Minutes – January 5, 2021:

Ms. Gioiello made a motion to approve the January 5, 2021 minutes; the motion was second by Mr. Edson; all in favor, none opposed.

Old Business:

Chairman Jon Miller welcomed everyone, and asked if there was any old business we needed to discuss. Members declined.

New Business:

Mr. Miller asked Mr. Edson to report on the Tuckerton Seaport. Mr. Edson stated the Seaport is preparing to open on April 1st, they already have boat trips scheduled. They are planning to launch the historic sailboat this year and this will be the first time that members of the public will be able to sail on it. They are going to do a more specialized renting as a group type like going out for three hours. The boat is uninspected so there can't be more than six passengers on it. In addition, Mr. Edson mentioned there have been discussions with Rutgers. They are interested in moving out of the Coast Guard building at the end of Seven Bridges Road. So, there are discussions with Rutgers moving into a new building on the Seaport property. They have some preliminary drawings for that, in keeping with the deed restrictions of that property. They are actively looking to be out of there soon.

Members Forum:

No members forum.

Public Forum:

A motion was made by Ms. Gioiello and second by Mr. Edson to open the public forum; all in favor, none opposed. The chair asked the audience to announce themselves.

Mr. Damon Rossi introduced himself and stated he sent an email with his intentions of attending a council meeting or economic development meeting.

Also, Mr. Pete Gioiello introduced himself and his purpose is to inquire how the economic development committee is trying to do to help build up the center of town. The chairman explained there can be a lot of suggestions to the local business but the committee can't interfere with them. Mr. Miller mentioned the committee had conversation with regard to having a garden and a clock with some dedications in the center of town, and perhaps now would be the time to request a meeting with the county since they purchased the vacant lot on the corner. Mr. Perotti mentioned he thought he had seen plans for a basin there. Mr. Miller stated then now is the time to at least have a phone conversation with the county to inquire of their intentions.

The chairman recognized Mr. Rossi and turned the floor over to him. Mr. Rossi gave his educational background and then stated about two years back, and with COVID he noticed the lack of businesses applying effective connections in their branding techniques that must be utilized now in order to save parts of their business and now are losing money, and laying off workers. This has led him to offer his assistance to the city as well. He further stated he is unsure how to proceed at the government level and is looking for guidance. The chairman stated the committee are volunteers of residents and business people in the town, and are appointed by the governing body. This committee cannot make rules, we can only offer advice. In addition, the EDC can guide or can make a recommendation to council that this particular idea is really good and this is something the EDC recommends. A conversation occurred as to the possible agencies that Mr. Rossi might reach out to in assisting businesses; Chamber of Commerce, and the Rotary. The chairman thanked Mr. Rossi for coming to the meeting.

Mr. Miller then welcomed Mr. Gioiello and turned the floor over to him. Mr. Gioiello stated he is aware you can't push local businesses but at a council meeting it was mentioned that the old borough hall was going to be a potential rental property. His question, is that something we can try to draw some type of business there because it is phenomenal for parking, great potential, with a great location. It's a resource for the borough as far as rental, it will make the middle of the borough look a lot better than an empty building. Mr. Miller stated he was advised the old borough hall only has four parking spaces, everything else is owned by the bank. The parking would be a hurdle but maybe the tenant could have a conversation with the bank, maybe a parking lot rental agreement. Mr. Edson stated it is the roll of the EDC to guide people looking to establish a business; the benefits such as the tax abatement. Mr. Edson mentioned prior to COVID the to attract more businesses, the committee discussed putting together a folder or packet of some kind that say here are the economic benefits available to businesses under what Tuckerton offers now. Here are the ways to improve a building, and apply for a tax abatement. We are here for the purpose and happy to talk to you and direct you. Something that can be handed out and direct them to this committee for assistance or guidance.

Mr. Miller asked for other audience members comments. Mr. Ron Peterson mentioned the "Marina Weekend". He stated maybe involve the restaurants and combine it to Restaurant and Marina Weekend. Mr. Peterson mentioned to involve the Seaport as they can transport people to both sides of the creek. Something like that will draw a lot of people to the town. Mr. Miller stated the next thing would be to have the Sandpaper come to a meeting. The last time, Restaurant Week" the Sandpaper did the work and sold the ads, in the end the cost of the publications didn't cost the borough any money.

A motion was made by Ms. Gioiello and second by Mr. Edson to close the public forum; all in favor, none opposed.

Approval of Secretary Services:

Roll Call:

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
		Danielle Corso				X
		Matt Edson	X			
X		Renee Gioiello	X			
		Jon Miller	X			
	X	Rob Perotti	X			

Adjournment – Chairman at 7:59 PM
 Motion by Mr. Edson, second by Mr. Perotti; all in favor, none opposed.

Respectfully submitted:
 April D. Elley, EDC Secretary