

North Brookfield Downtown Development Committee (DDC)
Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2021

In Attendance:

Sheila Orsi, Marilynn Borst, Ethan Melad, Sue Lewandowski, Eva Brown

Guest:

Absent: Jack McClintock

Meeting Opened:

6:50pm

Minutes from Sept 28, 2021 were submitted by Sheila Orsi. Eva made a motion to accept, Marilynn seconded, all agreed. Minutes were approved.

Old Business:

1. Planning Board made a significant compromise with the DDC to keep North Main Street from Spring St to Maple Street free from Drive-Through operations, during the transition of by laws being amended to add drive through operation in the R-11 zone. DDC requested that the Planning Board also ADD the same drive through by law to BG, the new BG-2 and the Industrial zones as well. We want to publicly thank the Planning Board for keeping the Center of the Downtown District Overlay free from this type of business service in order to promote a more walkable downtown area.
2. ARPA Travel & Tourism Grant – Ethan met with Kerri Salwa from CMRPC to discuss the process for this federal grant. It is managed by 6 regional offices nationwide. Our office is serviced through the Philadelphia office. Ethan spoke with our representative and she stated that the funding for the town common/playground did not qualify as the project did not create enough new jobs and other criteria that the project would need. Sue brought up the idea of creating a “recreational director” position. Ethan mentioned that he had spoken with the current members of the common/playground committee and they are overwhelmed by the scope of the project but not dismissive of it. If enough funding was available, they would be interested.

Updates

1. TAP program/presentation is completed and available online in the NB town site under the DDC.
2. LRRP is finalized and under review for any errors.
3. The Open Space part of the Master Plan is just about complete and ready to be submitted to the state in a few weeks.
4. Friends of the Townhouse (FOTH) is hosting a Fall Family Festival at Common Grounds on Oct 30, 2021.
5. The Community One Stop Grant was not awarded to North Brookfield at this time. We can regroup and resubmit for another round of funding.

New Business

1. Community Preservation Grant (CPA) is a tax override and match grant that Ethan was looking into. Eva mentioned that there had been reservations about how this grant works in town as it has come up in the past. We may need to look deeper into this to find the pros and cons of this opportunity.
2. Marilyn brought up that the Historical Commission is looking to possibly work with the DDC to create plaques for Historical places, homes and landmarks in town.
3. Covid Funds are available to towns, but the restrictions on usage are intense. Interested in finding out if this is something that the DDC can put to use in the Downtown District area?

Next Meeting Dates:

Next Meeting – November 1, 2021

Close of Meeting: 8:18 pm

Meeting minutes submitted by Sheila Orsi

October 19, 2021

Minutes Approved: November 1, 2021