

## **Eatontown Economic Development Advisory Committee**

**October 1, 2009**

Meeting called to order at approximately 1 p.m. in the council chamber of Borough Hall.

Members present: Ron Wollner, Anna Mayer, George Jackson, Bob English, Kevin Gonzalez, George DeStafney, Helen Pike, Jamie Pavlis, Ed Stominski, Councilman Dennis Connelly and Mayor Gerry Tarantolo.

Mayor Tarantolo updated the committee on a number of business developments:

- \* Best Buy's grand opening in the former Pathmark supermarket on Route 36 is scheduled for 10/24
- \* Barnes & Noble, formerly of West Long Branch, has scheduled its grand opening in Monmouth Mall on 11/2.
- \* state DOT work on realigning the Route 35/36 intersection is delayed, again, as LGR (owner of the parcel where Macy's Furniture Store is located on Route 35N) appeals a judge's eminent domain ruling in favor of the state.

A late-winter, early-spring resolution of LGR's appeal is hoped in order that the state DOT may begin the \$13 million realignment project. Once started, its duration is estimated at 18 to 24 months.

Impact to borough: Eatontown will assume ownership of that part of Wall Street that will be dead-ended as a result of the alignment; Wall Street is a county road.

Attempts by the borough to offer the street to LGR were rebuffed.

- \* the Fort Monmouth Implementation Authority is still waiting for Trenton legislation to create it; Mayor Tarantolo estimates that will now occur after the November election for governor.

EDAC briefly discussed the cost to Eatontown of Fort Monmouth's planned closure in 2010. According to the Office of Economic Adjustment, the estimate is \$3 million that the borough would receive in federal funds.

Despite public testimony given in 2006 in Washington, D.C., that exposed fraudulent figures by the Pentagon on the taxpayer cost of shutting the fort, Mayor Tarantolo believes the federal government intends to go ahead with closing down Fort Monmouth in 2012.

Eileen Higgins is the acting executive director of the Monmouth County Workforce Investment Board (New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development Monmouth County Division of Employment) that is overseeing the Department of Labor's Fort Monmouth Resource Center employee retraining program at 1 Main Street.

- \* the Veterans Administration is scheduled to move onto Industrial Way West.

EDAC set up a subcommittee to begin planning for an Eatontown Economic Conference in January 2010 at the Sheraton: Ron Wollner, Anna Mayer, Helen Pike, Tom Riccardi, and Gerry Tarantolo.

This subcommittee will meet 10/8 at Houlihan's to set up the conference agenda (including speakers), review pitch letter that will be sent to all Eatontown businesses that have a mercantile license on file in Borough Hall, and determine length and registration cost of the morning event.

Helen will write the letter; Anna will handle the registration; Gerry will book the speakers.

The conference's tentative subtitle:

The Future After the Fort: What's In It For You?

EDAC committee president Ron Wollner met with Leslie Connolly, Eatontown's CFO, to discuss setting up an account so EDAC could receive contributions by business owners for the real estate website portal. The proposal then went to the Borough Council where it was tabled for a workshop meeting scheduled for further discussion on October 7.

Bob English has scheduled 10/9 and 10/12 as shoot dates with Neil Bennett's Industry Film School of Freehold (formerly of Eatontown) for the borough's business promo video.

Pending approval for asbestos removal, the Eatontown Roller Rink building remains are scheduled to be carted off by Oct. 10.

The next EDAC meeting was set for November 12 at 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Helen Pike, Secretary