

METUCHEN DOWNTOWN ALLIANCE MINUTES

May 12, 2017

8:00 A.M.

In attendance: Eric Berger, Jay Muldoon, Dottie Winhold, Leon Schwartz, Grace Shackney, Bobbie Theivakumaran, Peg Inglese, Michelle Schutz, Gary Tilbor, Stuart Schooler. Not present Chris Flynn, Anthony Campisi, Dianna Callinan. Staff: Isaac Kremer. Guests: Jan Margolis. Borough Administrator: Jennifer Maier.

The Meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Eric Berger, MDA Board Chair.

The minutes from the April, 2017 board meeting were approved.

There were no additions to the agenda provided.

Eric welcomed and introduced Stuart Schooler who attended his first MDA Board meeting.

Chairman, ED and Committee reports were distributed prior to meeting. No comments on reports.

By-law Amendments – Isaac Kremer reported on the proxy results for the proposed by-law amendments. MDA had a quorum via proxy, which requires the participation of 1/3 votes of Full Members. The motion to approve the by-law amendments passed – 98 yes votes, 8 no votes. Isaac thanked the board members and volunteers who helped in the canvassing of members.

Main Street Bridge Painting – Jay Muldoon and Jennifer Maier discussed the proposed painting of the railroad bridge over Main Street. A group of residents and the Borough have been working for 3 years on a project to beautify the bridge with a “Metuchen” identify painting on both sides of the bridge. The Borough recently completed a 10 year license agreement with Amtrak, owner of the bridge, which permits the bridge to be painted. The Borough will pay all costs associated with Amtrak, but hopes the MDA would cover the cost of painting the bridge. Jay showed a draft of what the painting would look like. The main panel would have METUCHEN painted on it and the smaller, lower panel could have some other messaging on it. Jennifer Maier explained the process and shared some preliminary costs estimates the Borough had received. The Board approved a non-binding motion to explore the project. Additional costs estimates are needed. Eric Berger advised that the Executive Committee would draft and the secondary messaging, get additional pricing and report back to the full Board next month.

Work Plans – the Board approved the work plans for the balance of 2017 by unanimous vote.

Old Business – there was no Old Business.

New Business – Dottie Winhold reported that Flynn & Son Funeral Home would like to become an Elective Member of the MDA. They are located on Amboy Ave outside the District. Isaac Kremer indicated that the By-laws state that any business interested in becoming an Elective Member should submit a request in writing to the Board Secretary. Isaac will advise Flynn to submit their request in

writing so that a vote could be taken next month. There was discussion about how to handle requests for Associate Membership which does not include voting rights. Eric Berger advised that the Executive Committee would flesh out the Associate Membership and report back to the full Board next month.

Jay Muldoon shared the new Borough policy for garbage and recycling pickup in the District. Garbage needs to be placed in the rear of buildings in the District, where possible, for pickup by DPW. Pickup will be on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. Recycling picked up on Wednesday morning. New policy does not apply to businesses that currently use dumpsters or private garbage pickup. An article on the new policy and schedule will be in the next MDA newsletter.

Motion to adjourn was made and passed. Meeting concluded at 9:15am.

The next Board meeting will be Friday, June 9, 2017, at 8am at Hailey's.

Submitted by Jay Muldoon