

**May 17, 2021**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Welcome! Joined by Zoom or Called-in**

In attendance: Vito Gallo, Diane Davidson, Benn Smith, Jeff Warren, Rhonda Bastian, Cheryl Huckabee-Washington, Cara Butz, Jennifer Alderfer, Esq., Assistant Solicitor

Welcome! Join by Zoom or call-information below

**1. Approval of Minutes** - March 15, 2021 (Diane)-Attachment Motion to Approve minutes: Rhonda Bastian, Benn Smith; All approved: Cheryl, Stephanie, Benn, Cara, Vito, Jeff and Diane,

**2. Financials (Stephanie) -**

- BB&T/Treasuries account status- (Stephanie)-Attachment – through the end of April. A few other checks just went out this May. Payoff on the loans is now reflected; except the Blue August. AP is still a little over \$11,000. Have not had to touch the \$14,000. Jeff Warren – question about a particular line item #40 – is that for the Historic Preservation consultant or for Vito’s fees? Contract Services – is for Vito’s fees, which have not been paid regularly. Motion to Accept the Financials: Benn Smith, Rhonda 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion; Role Call – all approved: Vito, Diane, Stephanie, Cheryl, Benn, Jeff, Rhonda, Cara.

- Loan Pool update (Benn) – rather quiet; receiving payments for Blue August. There has been no talk of refinancing the loan. The contact at BB &T has changed again and all information requested by them has been provided.

**3. President’s Update (Vito for Kent)**

- WTICDA Extension of 50 Year life extension-vote – It is expiring in 2024; working on extending so that we can continue to work on long-term projects. Working with Jack Gross and Attorney McGinley to create the Resolution; proposed to do the cut-off of December 31, 2070 for easier record keeping purposes, instead of May 2071. This will go before the Commissioner’s for review and approval, with additional steps to follow to finalize it including advertising the change.

- RESOLUTION – Motion to Approve the Resolution to extend to December 31, 2070 made by Cheryl, the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Benn; Role Call – all approved: Vito, Diane, Stephanie, Cheryl, Benn, Jeff, Rhonda, Cara. After it is signed, it should be provided to Jennifer to handle the last steps over the summer.

- By-laws changes – (Jennifer) – provided a clean copy and a red-lined version for review. There was a statutory regulation that needs to be removed because the law was repealed. Also section 8.02a3 had an incomplete sentence which she completed with what seemed to be appropriate. Comment section 7.02 about checks the Treasurer or some other assigned officer may sign checks, along with the President signing each check. Discussion about having the ability for the President to delegate the authority to sign checks as needed, if the President is not available. Encouraged everyone to review the by-laws over the summer and we will pick it up again in September and hopefully finalize with a vote in October. Any suggestions can be emailed to Jennifer so she can add to a running list of suggested changes.

**4. Mayor’s Report (Mike Harakal – not in attendance)**

- Township economic development activity and other updates – (Vito) attended a meeting with Mayor Harakal and Kent Newhart. Newest owners are ready and willing to get moving on the project; they were slowed down due to the pandemic. State Representatives and Senators also attended and pledged to support the project. The state does not offer incentives unless a clearly defined plan is presented.

## **5. Commissioner's Report - (Jeff)**

- Recent Commissioner's Board Mtg. Actions – The residential project at Schadt Ave and Mauch Chunk Rds has not come in front of the board. There is a lot combinations request along Rural Rd. Looks like a pad-site being built next to Dave & Busters; although no additional information available at this time. The NW corner of Columbia & MacArthur has been re-zoned to Commercial.

Whitehall Area Rotary and Whitehall Environmental Advisory Committee worked on trash clean-up along Jordon Greenway this past Saturday 5/15.

## **6. Old Business/Project Updates**

- State Historical District Grant for Hokendauqua Thomas Ironworks update –(Vito) – moving forward with state approval. Artifact is doing additional research and photography. They're evaluating the original boundaries of the Ironworks. The Museum commission appears to wish to limit it to Hokendauqua. They anticipate to be requesting letters of support the National Museum of Industrial History and other historical societies, then submit to the State for review and hopefully approval. National Register of Historic Locations.

- WTICDA State Audit Report due to PA DCED by July 30, 2021- (Vito)

## **7. New Business**

- Facebook/LinkedIn Committee updates (Rhonda) – no reports; we have not met. Plan to meet over the summer and will update in the fall.

- LV Chamber upcoming events (Rhonda, Cara, Cheryl) – Rhonda:

Saturday 5/15 was the Grand Opening of Keystone HD; appeared to be well attended.

Thursday 5/20 – Zoom/Virtual State of the Region event

Saturday 5/22 - Northampton Chamber of Commerce – Street Fair on Main St.

Thursday 7/15 – Affiliated Chambers Bike & Hike on the IRT tickets are available for purchase

Sunday 7/25 – Christmas in July to replace the tree lighting that was cancelled due to the pandemic.

- Summer Tours - Local Workspaces and Incubators - Stephanie – working on a few incubators for us to tour in Bethlehem and Allentown. Whitehall is really missing a co-working space. Kent and Vito have discussed with the Mayor that the soon to be vacant Police Station would be good for such a space.

(Jeff) Construction at the Municipal Building is progressing nicely; the new plan will be to the Left will be the Police Station and to the Right will be the Administration area.

- Jeff Warren – Whitehall Mall – if there are updates, lets not “go dark” over the summer. Vito and Kent periodically check in with the Whitehall Mall owners. They have not provided a lot of information lately. Although it is a valuable piece of real estate that is owned out-right.

## **8. Next Meeting:**

- September 20, 2021 at ATA Financial, 1044 Third St., Whitehall

**9. Adjourn – Motion to Adjourn – Cheryl, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rhonda;** Role Call – all approved: Vito, Diane, Stephanie, Cheryl, Benn, Jeff, Rhonda, Cara.