

BUCKS COUNTY CONSORTIUM

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order:

A meeting of the Bucks County Consortium was held at 9:00 a.m. at via GoToMeetings, on February 4, 2021, and called to order by Consortium President Kyle Seckinger

Roll Call, Introductions and Community Updates:

The following Bucks County communities were represented at the meeting:

Dana Cozza, Buckingham Township
Shawn Curran, Chalfont Borough
Caroline Brinker, Doylestown Borough
Kayrn Hyland, Doylestown Borough
Mega Bhandary, Middletown Township
Nick Valla, Middletown Township
Stephanie Teoli Kuhls, Middletown Township
Michael Walsh, New Britain Township
Christina Szabo, New Hope Borough
Bill Wert, Northampton Township
Bob Pellegrino, Northampton Township
Angela Benner, Plumstead Township
Paul Stepanoff, Richland Township
Kathy Wetzel, Richlandtown Borough
Sherry Masteller, Riegsville Borough
Jason Wager, Springfield Township
John Boyle, Warminster Heights
Barry Lubber, Warrington Township
Christian Jones, Warrington Township
Ashley Casey, Warwick Township
Brandy Mckeever, Warwick Township
Kyle Seckinger, Warwick Township

Sponsors:

Mike Italia, Barry Isett & Associates
Brian Jetter, Comcast
Bob Solarz, Delaware Valley Insurance Trust
Carol Bigham, Delaware Valley Insurance Trust
Anna Linn, Delaware Valley Insurance Trust
Beth Kaufmann, Equitable Advisors
Kathy Thomas, High Swartz
Steve Noll, TMA
Chad Dixon, TRAISR, LLC
Dan Reavy, TRAISR, LLC
Patty Barthel, Waste Management

Dan Fagan, Senator Steve Santarsiero's office
Shannon Stricker, Senator Steve Santarsiero's office

2. Presentation by Stephen Barth: How to promote economic development during the pandemic.

Mr. Stephen Barth is President of Barth Consulting Group (BCG), a boutique, economic development, and municipal revitalization consulting firm. Barth Consulting Group creates, guides and facilitates transformative revitalization and visioning for communities. BCG has created over \$500,000,000 of new investment for municipalities, opened over 350+ new businesses and created over 2,000 new jobs.

Mr. Barth provided a series of slides reviewing the following information to the BC Consortium members and sponsors:

- Over & background of Barth Consulting Group (BCG)
- Review of Municipal Clients and Partners
- 2020 Jacksonville Green Revitalization Award - \$20 million adaptive re-use (Hatboro, PA)
- New Hope & Perkasio Borough Economic Development Plans – “Development by Design”
- Creating Strong Revitalization Teams
- Community Engagement
- How to create data decision
- Overview of BCG Grants & Awards for Municipalities
 - 2020 - \$2 million RACP Grant Award – Pennridge Airport Business Park
 - 2020 - \$1,750,000 RACP Matching Grant; New Hope Borough Multi-Story Parking Deck Awarded
 - Hatboro Miller Meadow Park - Inception Concept 2012 - \$450,000 Grant Funding 2020
- Collegeville Borough
 - Creating a college town
 - 2020 Awarded \$109,000 Montco 2040 Grant, Collegeville Southern Gateway - New Park, Water Trail
- Proactive Economic Development Creates Direct General Fund Revenues
- Book recommendation: “Who Moved My Cheese”
 - The Covid Economy, Adapting to Change, Pivoting Policies, New Ways of Working, Flexibility of Codes
- Township Covid Trends
 - Shopping Centers, Strip Malls and Malls, Mixed-Use Zoning & Development, Real Estate Tax Assessment Challenges, Blight, Vacancies and Foreclosures
- Support Covid Grants & Loans
 - New PA Small Business Grants, Bucks Back to Work Small Business Grant
- BCG provides Covid Business Advice
 - Zoom Meetings, YouTube, Social Media & Live Video Chats
- Rewriting Covid Business Plans
- New Business Concepting
- The Covid Economy Re-Inventing Retail
- 2021 Opportunities
 - Townships working together, Marketing Bucks County as a whole
 - What do we have that other counties don't?
 - Streamlining Development

Mr. Barth took various questions from the members. Mr. Barth thank the membership for allowing him to present at today's meeting.

Contact Information: Stephen Barth, President

- Email: sbarth@barthconsultinggroup.com
- Services: Revitalization Consulting, Project or Retainer, Economic Development Study Plans, Facilitating Comprehensive Plans

3. Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills:

Upon motion by Angela Benner, seconded by Bill Wert, the Treasurer's Report for December 2020 and January 2021, was unanimously approved.

4. Approval of Minutes:

Upon motion by Angela Benner, seconded by Bob Pelligrino, the November 5, 2020 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

5. Open discussion:

Dana Cozza (Buckingham Township) questioned the members about precautions to take when establishing a zoom link that can not be hacked by others. There were discussions among the membership as to what different municipalities are doing to create private zoom links for public meetings.

Nick Valla (Middletown Township) made an announcement that the 2021 Salary Survey will be sent out by Ashley Casey, Consortium Coordinator. Mr. Valla noted there is a new format to the survey which will be in a google format. Mr. Valla stated that he is available for any questions that the members may have while completing the survey.

Michael Walsh (New Britain Township) announced that for any municipally that has participated in the Consortium Bids, that the packets will be out tomorrow for the bid materials.

Bill Wert (Northampton Township) provided an update to the membership on the Verizon Contract. Mr. Wert noted that any municipally that has participated should have received the template agreement from Dan Cohen. Mr. Wert will send additional information as received.

Brian Jetter (Comcast) made product and channel announcements to the membership. Mr. Jetter thanked the membership for their patience during this week's storm.

6. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Casey

Ashley Casey
Consortium Coordinator