

New Castle Downtown Business Association

March 16, 2022
12:00pm – 1:00pm
The Confluence

Attendance:

Pat Amabile – Shipping Depot (President)
Ronda Watkins – WesBanco
Janet Falotico – Visit Lawrence County
Loretta Spielvogel – County Commissioners
Paul Bucciarelli – Regional Chamber of Commerce
Matt Geige – PA Career Link
Francis Zelinsky – PA Career Link
Julie Jendrysik – Lawrence County Drug & Alcohol
Amy Jones – DON
Anita McKeever – DON
Ashley Stevenson – DON Reclaim
Colleen Chamberlain – West Central Job Partnership
Bob Salem – New Castle Police
Sylvia Ewen – Warner Film
Terry Rodgers – Ellwood Group

Call to order – Pat Amabile
Financial Report – Balance \$4,549.36

Partner Reports:

City of New Castle – Bob Salem

- Talked about the mass text program/email program that goes out to downtown business/any business that is interested. Just to give you a heads up of anything happening including the DBA meetings, road closures, crimes, etc.
- Very short handed with 9 people off right now for different circumstances but once they get new people hired they will start with bike patrol

County of Lawrence – Loretta Spielvogel

- Gave a brief overview of SOUP, Build Back Better program, Rescue plan funds, Infrastructure funds, Opioids Settlement funds.

Regional Chamber of Commerce – Paul Bucciarelli

- Kim Jones of the Hoyt and Randy Silverman of Klafsters are acting as interim leaders of the Chamber currently. They are currently searching for a CEO

- Touched on Forward Lawrence, Noon Knowledge session on April 7th, Work Force Focus group on May 18th, Stone Crest Project, Enterprise Park, Valentino Cheese, Craft Distillery.
- Talked about several new businesses opening in the county
- Working with Westminster College entrepreneurship center, they have offered 5 students each semester. They are currently working on a feasibility study for a co-working space in the county and the Lawrence Village Plaza on how other cities have repurposed downtown shopping centers.

Tourist Promotion – Janet Falotico

- New visitors guide is out, if you need more pick them up at the office
- Touched on the Burger Trail, State offered 5 \$15K awards for Juneteenth monies given for an event, Warner Movie Theater grand opening.

Pa Career Link – Colleen Chamberlain

- Touched on work force development; revamping workshops, adding additional topics
- Working on putting together a large scale job fair for Mercer and Lawrence county, looking for space centrally located that is large enough for both counties

Don Services – Anita McKeever

- Ashley Stevenson presented on Reclaim
- Received a grant to revise 10 facades in the Clark building corridor
- Fireworks festival will be held on July 30th, Oneness April 10th
- \$500K grant to fix up the Wright (Clark) building

New Visions – No one in attendance

Warner Theater – Sylvia Ewen

- Have the first projectors that were ever used on display
- The carpet is down
- An open house will be happening soon, date to be determined

Lawrence County Drug & Alcohol – Julie Jendrysik

Adjournment – there being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1:15pm. The next meeting will be held at noon on Tuesday April 12th at the Confluence, 214 E Washington St, New Castle, PA 16101.