

MEETING MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BYRAM TOWNSHIP COUNCIL AND PLANNING BOARD MEETING
MAY 17, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Shivas called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

	Mr. Riley	Mr. Morytko	Mr. Chozick	Ms. Raffay	Mr. Kaufhold	Ms. Segal	Mr. Walsh	Mr. Gonzalez	Ms. Shimamoto	Chairman Shivas
HERE	H	H		H				H	H	H
ABSENT										
EXCUSED			E		E	E	E			
LATE										

Also present: Attorney Planner Kurt Senesky Paul Gleitz

STATEMENT BY CLERK

Adequate notice of this meeting has been published specifying the time and place in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

FLAG SALUTE led by Chairman Shivas

The Byram Township Sustainable Economic Development Plan

Township Manager Joseph Sabatini introduced Township Planner Paul Gleitz, and Chuck Latini of Latini & Gleitz Planning. Mr. Gleitz said that this initiative, which began roughly a year ago, and is funded through a Highlands Grant, is part of the Highlands Plan Conformance process. He said that through public outreach by means of a survey, meetings, market analysis, and interviews with merchants and stakeholders, this document is the result of those findings and a pathway towards Byram meeting its goals and objectives to encourage and sustain economic development.

Mr. Latini reviewed the key conclusions of the study saying that Byram should promote ecotourism and recreational activities since most of Byram is restricted from development, and in the Highlands preservation area. He reviewed the sustainable retail categories:

- Full service restaurant
- Specialty grocery store
- Grocery store
- Furniture store
- Specialty food service
- Other general merchandise such as house wares/home furnishings.

Mr. Gleitz and Mr. Latini reviewed the goals and objectives of the plan.

- Create an environment that business can succeed and create an identity for Byram as a place for business to go and people to remember.
- Promote a regional economy
- Support economic opportunities offered by sports, entertainment, history and ecotourism.
- Encourage specialty retail and variety of dining opportunities.
- Facilitate Smart Growth strategies and principles.

Mr. Gleitz discussed ways to reach the goals and objectives and talked about the implementation matrix saying that success of the plan will rely on residents, businesses, Township employees, and surrounding communities. The finalization of this report is just the beginning of the Economic Development process.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Shivas opened to the public.

Skip Danielson, 7 Hunters Lane asked why Hackelbarny Park is mentioned rather than more local parks. Mr. Gleitz said it was just an example of resources in the region.

Mr. Eric Gernant, 2 Mayne Avenue said that between Acorn Street and Waterloo Road there has been tremendous development and the bottom line for homeowners is lowering property taxes. How will this document help. Mr. Gleitz said hopefully by attracting and maintaining business will help the tax base.

Luann Byrne, 34A Richmond Road asked where to find this information. Mr. Gleitz said it will be on our website and the Highlands website. Ms. Byrne asked who to contact. Mr. Gleitz said there will be more meetings and more opportunity to participate.

Councilman Olson recognized Judy Thornton, Highlands Council saying that the Highlands Council has been instrumental in supporting Byram and that Judy, our liaison is always willing to help and provide answers to some crazy questions.

No one else from the public came forward. Chairman Shivas closed to the public.

A motion was made by Mr. Morytko to adopt the Sustainable Economic Development Plan as an element to Byram Township’s Master Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Riley.

The following vote was taken:

	Mr. Riley	Mr. Morytko	Mr. Chozick	Ms. Raffay	Mr. Kaufhold	Ms. Segal	Mr. Walsh	Mr. Gonzalez	Ms. Shimamoto	Chairman Shivas
Motion		√								
Seconded	√									
Aye	√	√		√				√	√	√
Nay										
Abstain										
Absent										

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the joint meeting was made at 8:45 p.m. by Ms. Shimamoto, the motioned was seconded by Mr. Morytko. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted: *Cheryl White*