

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM
BETHLEHEM 20/20 ADVISORY COMMITTEE
May 29, 2009 Meeting Record
Elsmere Fire Station, Poplar Drive
7:30 – 9:15 a.m.

Members Present:

Terri Egan, Co-Chair, Kenneth Ringler, Co-Chair, Steve Baboulis, Keith Bennett, John Clarkson, Lisa Evans, Cathy Griffin, Terry Hannigan, John Piechnik, Ted Putney, Pam Robbins, Patty Salkin, Brian Stenson, Bob Ward

Members Absent:

James Blendell, Mort Borzykowski, Steve Coffey, Peter Conway, Joanne Cunningham, Susan Hager, Dick Kotlow, Jim Lytle, Bob Verstandig, Jr., Christo Zemerling

Town Staff Members Present:

Supervisor Cunningham, George Leveille, Suzanne Traylor

1) **Co-Chair Report**

- **April 24, 2009 Meeting Record:** The draft meeting record was approved without further amendment.
- **Follow-up on action items:** Co-Chair Egan reported that the one action items from April 24 meeting had been addressed and would be discussed with associated agenda items during the meeting. The other action item involving research of comparable communities had been withdrawn by Co-Chair Egan.
- **Other:** Co-Chair Egan communicated the fact that Governor Paterson announced his support for the proposed government consolidation legislation that began with Attorney General Andrew Cuomo.

2) **Report of the Communications Sub-Committee**

Sub-committee chair John Piechnik reported that May 13 presentation to the Town Board went well and went on to identify the following committee members who participated along with Mr. Piechnik: Terri Egan, Terry Hannigan, Suzanne Traylor, Brian Stenson, Steve Baboulis and John Clarkson. He indicated that he and Supervisor Cunningham would be meeting with the President's Council of the Bethlehem Central School District on Monday, June 1. He also said meetings were being coordinated with the Bethlehem Library Board and Fire Departments throughout the Town. Terri Egan thanked John for his great work in coordinating the May 13 presentation and expressed disappointment that attendance was not greater.

3) **Report of the Community Survey Committee**

Sub-committee chair Pam Robbins delivered the draft final report of the sub-committee to the full committee. She requested that any final comments be directed either her or George Leveille. She went on to discuss some reported criticism of the survey. She indicated that the 20/20 survey was

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM
BETHLEHEM 20/20 ADVISORY COMMITTEE
May 29, 2009 Meeting Record
Elsmere Fire Station, Poplar Drive
7:30 – 9:15 a.m.

intended to target Town residents who were likely to vote in a local election. The thought behind this sample was that some of the bold organizational initiatives that might emerge from 20/20 might require a public referendum at some point in the future and it would be important to understand the viewpoints of those most likely to vote. The focus on voters in local elections produced a total sample of 15,000. With more than 330 responses received, a 20% response would constitute a valid sample. She went on to say that the survey fairly represents the viewpoints of the specific sample that was taken. She indicated that the important message regarding the survey is that the committee was not overly dependent on the survey, but it served an important purpose in validating the general direction of the 20/20 recommendations. The co-chairs again thanked Pam for her tremendous contribution to completing the survey.

4) **Recommendations and Final Report Update**

The committee spent the balance of the meeting discussing the draft final report that had been circulated earlier in the week by George Leveille. After completing its discussion, the committee agreed that all the comments regarding the final report could be included in the next draft rather than be included in the meeting record. George Leveille indicated that he would circulate the final draft to the members by Friday, June 5, 2009.

Action Items

- a. George Leveille to prepare final draft based on discussion at today's meeting and comments received from Committee members.

To submit comments and questions, contact:

George Leveille, glev9119@gmail.com, 518.439.6822