



**SALEM COUNTY**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Economic Development Advisory Council**

Meeting Notes

Date: Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (SCC)

Name	Present	Absent	Name	Present	Absent
Matthew Cassidy		X	Michael Gorman	X	
Eric Myers		X	Jack Swain		X
Michelle Griscom		X	April Venable		X
Joseph Crevino	X		Ken Robell		X
Lou Pasquale	X		Jennifer Jones (Chair)	X	
*Julie Johnson	X		Julie Acton (Vice-Chair)		X
Jim Pfeiffer		X	Rebecca Iacovone		X
Mark Valente	X		Carey Italiano		X
Gunar Bergholz	X		Sean Sepsey	X	
Megan Flinn	X		Jake Buganski		X
Ed Ramsay	X				
Paul Collier		X			
Sean Brown		X			

\* Michael Drees filled in for Julie Johnson

**Meeting started at 4.37pm**

Presentation

- Tina and Dana Yangello presented updates about the Film & Arts Festival. They presented the promotion video for the Film Fest which is being released to the public.

COUNTY UPDATE

- Sean discussed a survey the group should have received from Lawrence Moore from the University of Penn. The survey is a part of a contract the county has with UPenn to evaluate the county's strategic action plan for economic development, and to see what areas still need to be addressed and what recommendations might be suggested to accomplish the goals within the plan.
- The group also discussed options for future meetings to be held via Zoom to allow for better attendance at the meetings.
- The One Big Beautiful Bill (HR1) made Opportunity Zones permanent and made some changes to how areas are designated. The Governor now has the ability to select up to 25% of the available census tracts. The entirety of Salem City and Penns Grove is eligible. The county is planning to lobby the governor to include expanding our tracts to include all of Salem City and Penns Grove.
- The solar project in Mannington Twp (Fenwick Solar) was denied by the Mannington Twp planning board (1-6).

- Ed Ramsay mentioned that the county budget will be presented this month. The bike path along the railroad line is currently in the design phase, we were awarded grant money for phase I of the project.
- The county purchased Sharptown Church to be the county's senior/ community center. The building is currently receiving renovations and will hopefully be open in a few months.

#### MUNICIPAL/ STAKEHOLDER UPDATE

- Joe C gave an update on a community solar project in Pilesgrove. The power from the solar going on top of the warehouses in the township will go towards lowering the energy costs for low-income residents and non-profits. The power expected from the solar from the two warehouses is enough to power 4,000 homes.
- Mike Gorman mentioned that the IFC glass expo is this weekend- tickets are available. Enrollment is up well over the predictions. The volley ball team has 25 applications so far and the football team has 145 applications. SCC purchased a field for their football team and August 29<sup>th</sup> will be their football opener.
- Jen J mentioned that the Frosted Nug in Carneys Point will be having a ribbon cutting on April 13<sup>th</sup> @11am for a new coffee shop that will be opening on premises.
- Megan F presented a flyer for an art contest Franklin Bank is hosting for high school students. The winner of the contest will receive \$1000 and have their art painted as a mural at their HQ in Pilesgrove.

#### Carey Italiano submitted updates from SJEDD

- Still waiting for a final determination from US DOT grant.
- We recieved our first direct grant application with a formal approval to be had at our April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting after a short presentation.
- New Opportunity Zone maps are updated and on my website.
- April 10<sup>th</sup> I have a followup meeting with Kris Kolluris team to discuss transportation.
- Next sjedd meeting in april 6<sup>th</sup> at 630pm

***Meeting adjourned at 5.34pm***