



Present	Absent	Guests
Mayor Richard Onderko	Sue Asher	Caitlin Cunnungham
Joe DeVito III	Diana Sieberg	Sharon Onderko, Media and Technology Director, Manville Arts Council
John Holloway		Alex Ramirez, Black Flag Defense Market LLC
Matt Brown		Chris Idrovo, Black Flag Defense Market LLC
Secretary: Nan Peterson		Sandra Brunarski
Council Liaison: Suzanne Maeder		

The Meeting was called to order at 6 pm.

### Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the October 11, 2022 meeting are unapproved.

### Municipal update:

Mayor Onderko stated that Stan Shrek, the Borough Engineer, is working on the GIS (Geographic Information Systems) business directory for Manville. We need a communication platform and his app will have every business represented by category.

All Zoning Application forms currently go to Shelly McGregor. Mayor Onderko will request that he receive a copy of the form so that he can reach out to the business and ask that they let him know when they plan to open. It was suggested that we create a New Business Welcome Packet. Mayor Onderko would like to resurrect the New Resident Welcome Packet instead.

### **Website and Electronic Directory update:**

Mayor Onderko and Suzanne are redoing the Borough website, with a focus on color schemes, mood boards, where things are placed, etc. It will take a little time and a lot of revisions. It should be done in the next 4 months. In the next month or so, we need to think about what we want the electronic directory to look like, as well as what we want front and center on the page. Winslow Township has a directory that Mayor Onderko admires. We may want to wait until Stan Schrek finishes his work on the GIS and then make suggestions.

### **501c Continued Discussion – Main Street USA designation**

To be a designated Main St, we need to partner with a designated 501c. It has to be a 501c that is “civics-minded.” Jessica Nichols, (and the Manville Relief Center), is working with Faith in Action Church as a local food bank. The Mayor would like to see if there is a way to use their organization as our 501c.

### **Spring: Downtown Mercado**

We will hold the Mercado in late April (after Easter) with the planning to start immediately. We need to consider where this will take place in town, and how we will integrate the businesses – specifically our eateries.

Matt Brown reported that he attended the Kringle Market in Hillsborough which had approximately 15 vendors from food trucks to local crafts. Marketspace Vendor Events (<https://marketspacevendorevents.com>) was the organization that handled all the details. Outsourcing this will lift the burden from us.

Nan and Matt will work on this event.

### **Quarterly Meet and Greets for 2023**

It was suggested that every 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting we hold a Meet/Greet with local businesses. The first and third will be an evening meeting and the other half should be during hours that work for our eateries. Quarterly Meet and Greets demonstrate our presence and make connections in our business community. It builds confidence with the business owners if they see things happening in town.

We will use a portion of the January meeting to choose a location to host the first quarterly Meet and Greet. If EDC members have connections to someone who owns a restaurant, see if we can make contact.

### **Welcome Black Flag Arms and Ammunition store**

The Black Flag Defense Market LLC recently opened at 821 W Camplain Rd, Manville, NJ 08835. Alex Ramirez and Chris Idrovo would like to work with the Federal contracting system as there are many opportunities available to them through this network. Firearms licensing is the toughest contracting license to obtain, so they should be attractive candidates for subcontracting. They would like to be featured in the next Manville’s News.

**General comments or concerns from Committee Members:**

It was suggested that we start a monthly business newsletter as a vehicle to blast out grant opportunities to local businesses.

It was suggested that the Zoning Applications be scanned and uploaded to a shared folder so that we can add the new business to our contact list.

It was suggested that we continue our conversation with Jessica Paolini, Manager of Economic Development for Somerset County, NJ, and invite her to speak at our first Meet and Greet.

**Next meeting confirmation** (second Tuesday of the month):

Tuesday, January 10, 6PM at the Manville Public Library

**Motion in adjourn**

Mayor Onderko moved to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Joe DeVito III and passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.