



**Mantua Township
Economic Development Office**

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MANTUA TOWNSHIP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES OF
December 8, 2014

- In attendance: Howard Bruner, Michelle Bruner, Sharon Lawrence, Susan Baldwin, Ronald Concordia, Karen Cook, Colleen O'Brien, Lita Abele
- Meeting opened at 5:33 PM by all present. No members of the public were in attendance.
- A motion was made by Ron Concordia seconded by Susan Baldwin to approve the October 6, 2014 Committee Minutes. All in favor. No opposed.
- Re-organization: the following board members expressed interest to stay in their positions:
 - All those present.
- Michelle Bruner gave her project update:
 - COAH – Michelle reviewed the 2014 Affordable Housing Regional Income Limit chart with those present. The MTEDC Office took over the function of affordable housing this year.
 - Michelle is finalizing the Business Registration form and expects it to be in place by Jan 2015. She provided a draft copy for all to review.
 - This will be given out by our Fire Marshall during his annual inspections. This will be used as a tool to gather up to date information on each business in town.
 - It will also give start-up businesses and existing businesses a guide of what to do from start to finish in the process of starting up a business or expanding or changing use of business structure.
 - Fossil Park-
 - T-shirts are on sale at the Clerk's office for \$10 a t-shirt: proceeds will be donated to the fossil park fund. Credit to Susan Baldwin on

the “Friends of Fossil” theme. Michelle provided those present with the t-shirt flyer.

- To date, 6,794+ guests have visited the Fossil Park. Michelle provided those present the summary guest total list.
- There are over 41 schools and groups requesting to visit the site in Spring 2015 (from areas spanning from NJ, PA, to NYC and CT; and one from Oklahoma). Currently there are only 5 days that the site is open to events in the Spring). Mantua Schools will have first priority to visit sites.
- 486 people are now on a waiting list for next years fossil event. (Michelle is working through 350 new emails to add into email invite database).
- SAVE THE DATE- for the 2015 Community Dig Day. This is tentatively scheduled for Sept 26th with a rain date of Sunday, Sept 27th. The Township will confirm this date and announce it in 2015.
- Acquisition of the Inversand property is still in process.
- We are currently seeking out sponsorships to help with numerous fossil park and event needs.
- A Marketing Grant (there is a \$30 million pot available) from a private foundation is available to apply for and we are going to apply for it’s \$5-8 million 2nd round in Jan 2015 to assist us with the fossil park marketing efforts.
 - Sweet Production (the Emmy-nominated production company that donated their services to film event days and conduct interviews) has provided a great marketing proposal to aide in this marketing effort.
- Tri-County Economic Development Award- Butch accepted this award on behalf of MTEDC. Dr. Lacovara and Inversand was also given one of the awards.
- Mantua Township Historical Committee – Michelle has been in contact with Glenn Lore (chairman of the historical committee). Michelle emailed members of this committee to start a partnership that will enable them to become more involved in our fossil park project goals. Michelle will communicate with MTEDC on the next Historical Committee meeting date in hopes that every member of our committee will make an effort to attend their meeting.
- Southern NJ Chamber of Commerce – meeting 12/16/14. Dr. Lacovara is the key note speaker. Theme is “Death of the Dinosaurs.”
- Please make note of the following resources:
 - www.facebook.com/mantuatownshipfossilheritage
 - www.mantuatownship
- Dr. Lacovara’s dino discovery made the top 100 stories of 2014 in the Discover magazine. Michelle provided a copy of the article to those present.
- Miscellaneous:
 - 2015 Meeting Dates: MUA Building @ 5:30pm

- Monday April 13, 2015
 - Monday June 8, 2015
 - Monday September 14, 2015
 - Monday December 14, 2015
- Member updates:
 - Butch thanked everyone for their involvement all year. The work done by MTEDC provides benefits to all 3 surrounding counties.
 - A motion was made by Karen Cook and seconded by Ron Concordia to adjourn the meeting at 6:26PM.