

Upper Mount Bethel Township Economic Development Committee

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: April 24th, 2025
TIME: 7:00 pm
LOCATION: Upper Mount Bethel Township Building
387 Ye Olde Highway
Mount Bethel, PA 18343
PRESENT: Scott Cole
Stavros Barbounis
Geoff Deen
Bill Hall
Ray Higgins
Anthony DeFranco
(Vacant)

ABSENT:

GUESTS

IN ATTENDANCE: Supervisor Jonathan Eler, Martin Pinter, Ron Angle, Tara Mezzanotte

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by committee Chair Scott Cole

Pledge of Allegiance

There are concerns raised about the implications of this withdrawal on local development and the effectiveness of the township's current leadership in negotiations.

Withdrawal of Amazon Deal

The meeting began with a mention of Amazon's withdrawal from the underground program deal, which was communicated to the attendees. This news was received with disappointment, as it was seen as a significant loss for the community, with implications for local economic development. Concerns were raised about how this decision could impact the township's future and the negotiations led by the current supervisors, particularly David Freidman and others involved in the discussions. The speaker expressed frustration over the lack of transparency and communication regarding this deal.

Leadership Concerns	Community Impact
Lack of effective negotiation	Potential economic downturn
Frustration with current supervisors	Loss of opportunity for development

The discussion highlighted the need for better communication and transparency from the township leaders. Many attendees felt that the leadership had failed to represent the interests of the community adequately, leading to missed opportunities like the Amazon deal. There was a call for the supervisors to step up and prioritize the needs of the residents, particularly in light of recent developments that could affect the township's future.

Public Comments and Reactions

Public comments during the meeting reflected a strong sentiment against the current leadership. Many residents expressed their frustration, stating that the decisions being made were not in the best interest of the community. There were demands for resignations from certain supervisors who were perceived as ineffective in their roles. The community members emphasized the importance of having leaders who could effectively negotiate and advocate for the township.

- Key points from public comments:
 - Need for accountability from supervisors
 - Desire for more community involvement in decision-making
 - Concerns over future developments and planning processes

Future Actions and Recommendations

Towards the end of the meeting, there were discussions about drafting a letter to the Board of Supervisors to formally express the community's concerns and suggest actions moving forward. This letter would serve as a means to hold the leadership accountable and push for a reevaluation of their strategies regarding local development and negotiations. The attendees agreed on the necessity of a collective effort to ensure that the interests of the residents are prioritized in future planning.

In conclusion, the meeting underscored the community's dissatisfaction with the current leadership and the urgent need for changes in how local development negotiations are conducted. The withdrawal of Amazon was seen as a pivotal moment that could shape the future of the township, prompting calls for greater transparency and accountability from those in charge.