

Township of Maple Shade
 Business and Economic Development Commission
 Maple Shade Municipal Building – Senior Room
 November 17, 2025 – 6:30PM

Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER—6:35PM

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- III. PUBLIC NOTICE** of this meeting, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, has been given by the Director of Business and Economic Development in the following manner:
1. Notifying the Township Clerk December 27, 2024.
 2. Mailing Notice to the Courier Post, The Central Record and Burlington County Times on December 27, 2024.
 3. Posting Notice on the Official Municipal Bulletin Board on December 27, 2024.

IV. ROLL CALL

J. Bennett*	✓	C. Kauffman*	✗	B. Norcia*	✓	K. Tunney	✓
G. Capate	✗	B. Loomis*	✗	S. Nunes*	✓	E. Wallace*	✓
S. Danson	✓	A. McVeigh*	✗	D. Smith*	✓	OPEN*	
A. Egner	✓	J. Mortimer*	✓	C. Thomas*	✗	OPEN	
K. Johnson*	✗	J. Nixon	✓	S. Torrey*	✗		

I. TREASURER REPORT

E. Wallace reported that as of November 1st, ABC Trust Account balance is \$8,187.20, the BEDC Township Account balance is \$8,275.38, and the Fundraising Trust Account balance is \$7,673.70.

J. Nixon reported on the holiday lighting, Arnold’s Property Service is responsible for maintaining seasonal décor and holiday lighting, including Gazebo Park, trees, the Veterans Memorial, the train station, and the storage of seasonal items. Historically, the ABC Trust Account has funded the Gazebo Park holiday lighting. A motion was made by J. Bennett and seconded by J. Mortimer to approve payment for the 2025 installation from the ABC Trust Account.

J. Bennett*	Y	A. McVeigh*	A	C. Thomas*	A
A. Egner	Y	J. Mortimer*	Y	S. Torrey*	A
K. Johnson*	A	B. Norcia*	Y	E. Wallace*	Y
C. Kauffman*	A	S. Nunes*	Y		
B. Loomis*	A	D. Smith*	Y		

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II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Committee: Budget & Funding | Chair: E. Wallace, S. Danson, J. Nixon & K. Tunney

The Budget Committee provided an update on moving forward with the Gazebo Park roof replacement as previously voted on by the members. It was reported that five companies were contacted to provide quotes for a metal gazebo roof; however, no responses have been received to date. Alternative options for the roof replacement are currently being explored.

2. Committee: Event Planning | Chair: B. Loomis, J. Nixon & A. Egner

The committee reported that there are no additional events planned for the remainder of the year. The Annual Color Run/Walk for the Arts will continue as scheduled. A Chili Cook-Off was discussed as a potential February or March event, with conversation focused on liability, food safety, and participation concerns, including a review of New Jersey Cottage Food License requirements. An alternative approach was proposed requiring all food to be prepared in commercial or club kitchens. The event remains under consideration. Additional ideas discussed included a Restaurant March Madness–style bracket event. A holiday raffle was also discussed but ultimately ruled out due to the BEDC not being a 501(c)(3) organization.

III. OLD BUSINESS

1. Master Plan submissions are due by the 15th, and any recommendations received will be included for consideration.

2. 2026 Event Calendar Update: Submissions have been received from the Maple Shade Soccer Club, Sustainable Maple Shade, Rotary, Masonic Lodge, and the Recreation Department. The calendar is expected to be compiled and completed in early January, with distribution planned for late winter.

3. 3rd Annual Business Appreciation Event Recap: The event was well attended with approximately 60 attendees, representing 35–40 local businesses. Guest speaker Cassandra Duffy, Business Administrator for the Borough of Collingswood, provided remarks, and representatives from the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) were present to engage with business owners regarding available grant opportunities. Information was provided on the NJ Storefront Program, which offers free website creation and hosting to eligible New Jersey businesses. The event saw strong participation and engagement and was considered a successful event.

4. As a reminder, the Paver Program remains open indefinitely. At the last meeting, the BEDC approved an additional holiday promotion running from November 1 through December 20, during which engraved pavers were offered at a promotional price of \$100.

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IV. NEW BUSINESS/IDEA EXCHANGE

1. America 250 (2026) Update: Organizations were encouraged to incorporate America 250 branding into their events throughout 2026. Discussion included the anticipated tourism boost associated with the FIFA World Cup 2026, with matches taking place in the Philadelphia and North Jersey region. Maple Shade’s fireworks are scheduled for June 26, strategically aligned with major World Cup events to help maximize community engagement and visitation.

2. E. Wallace reported on the newly formed Friends of the Maple Shade Library, announcing that their first book sale is scheduled for December 6, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, at the Maple Shade Library.

3. A. Egner proposed introducing a way to produce short, business-focused podcast interviews to help promote local businesses. J. Bennett offered the use of space within his business to support the creation of this content.

4. S. Danson provided an update on the RPM Main Street development, noting that the project is nearing completion and will include residential units with approximately 8,000 square feet of ground-level retail space. The BEDC will consider sending a letter outlining preferred business uses for the retail component.

5. There was general discussion regarding other projects on the horizon, including a positive update on the Volcano development, which has been revived. Several new business leads were discussed, including a soup-focused restaurant seeking relocation and a deli looking for available space. It was noted that the Wells Fargo building has been purchased; however, details regarding the future business were not able to be discussed at this time. S. Nunes also mentioned that Swedesboro Brewing Company is exploring an additional location.

V. NEXT MEETING is Tuesday, December 16, 2025. **By unanimous vote, the December meeting has been canceled.** – *Notice is being forwarded in accordance with The Open Public Meetings Act.*

VI. MOTION TO CLOSE

1. Motion to close—S. Nunes
2. Second to the motion—A. Egner

VII. ADJOURNMENT—7:17PM