

THE MONROE 2030 ACTION TEAM

Summary of Recent Activities #2: March 2016

This note is part of our regular updates on the activities of the Monroe 2030 Action Team. You can learn more about the initiative at: <http://www.monroecountypa.gov/Dept/2030Action/Pages/default.aspx>

Over the past 4-6 weeks, most of our work has focused on specific activities of our three task force groups. As a reminder, the Monroe 2030 Action Team has three focus areas, each of which is being addressed by an independent task force of local residents and community leaders.

- *Small Business & Entrepreneurship*: What can we do to make it easier to start and grow a business? (Task Force Chair-Mary Frances Postupack, East Stroudsburg University)
- *Community Collaboration*: How can our 20 local governments work better together to support economic development? (Task Force Chair: Annie Lamberton, Tobyhanna Township Supervisor)
- *Workforce Development*: How can we help local people build successful careers and develop a local talent base that employers need? (Task Force Chair: Rachel Frick Cardelle, Northampton Community College)

Each of the task forces has held several work sessions with meetings typically scheduled every two to three weeks. At present, the workforce development group is developing solutions to improve the talent pipeline and workforce retention in two of Monroe County's leading sectors: health care and hospitality/tourism. They intend to also assess the needs of manufacturers at their next meeting.

The Small Business and Entrepreneurship group is developing a "How to Do Business" guide that can be shared with new startups, and is also working on ways to make it easier for new businesses to get coaching and mentoring and other business services from groups like the state's Small Business Development Center Network.

Finally, the Community Collaboration team is seeking ways to make local government more business friendly. At present, their work is focused on developing a welcome guide that provides pre-application assistance for new commercial and residential development projects. They are also examining ways to support joint planning and project development across the County's township boundaries.

We welcome your input and interest in the work of the Monroe 2030 Action Team and we will continue to provide updates on our efforts. To learn more, visit the 2030 Action Team link at <http://www.monroecountypa.gov/>.