

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

To The Residents of BEDFORD TOWNSHIP:

For those who don't follow township meetings, let's begin with a bit of an intro.

Over the last five years, the Temperance Action Committee has been the victim of intense criticism by certain township board members, due in part to their personal agendas & vendettas. Following the elections of 2016, these same board members intensified their scrutiny of TAC. Luckily, we learned of a covert effort to dissolve TAC by exterminating our resolution with the township and without input from the TAC committee as a whole. In response, 3 minutes of public comment does not allow for full disclosure of a 15+ yr. history & we publicly promised to ensure the "true facts" be made known; but even this letter is limited in what all should be said.

Given a number of factors at the time and after the post office moved out of Downtown Temperance on 4/22/2002, it became apparent Temperance was struggling to maintain business as usual. At the same time the "new" Lambertville had a DDA; leaving the historical Lambertville to struggle as well. In response to residents' concerns, the EDC hosted public meetings, paid for a study & surveys with regards to downtown Temperance. The study results led to the formation of a volunteer-liaison group which came to be known as TAC. Their task was to be a major player in the creation of a vision for the revitalization of the downtown business district. They created an Overlay District & its ordinances, and developed the footprint to define the streetscape as a guide for the township planning department. Their earliest effort was to re-establish two simple but vital small town needs; open a grocery & gas station. Further efforts were made to initiate different, unique programs & businesses to bring traffic into Temperance; while still maintaining the atmosphere and ambiance the residents wanted.

Hence the MISSION STATEMENT: Temperance Action Committee is a co-operative of residents and business owners/operators in the downtown village center area: coming together to create an attractive community in which to work, shop and live; while utilizing the combined efforts of the members and township resources to maintain a safe, quiet and attractive small town atmosphere, while allowing for revitalized growth and the preservation of our history.

**In an effort to protect both TAC & the township, should either group seek to hinder or destroy the essence of this relationship a resolution was adopted in 2007.

TAC was instrumental in initiating or directly involved with the following events or programs:

*Adopt a Road, re-energized. Currently covers all primary roads in Bedford Twp.

*Instrumental in obtaining a site in Bedford Twp. for Monroe County's Hazardous Waste program.

*Instrumental in establishing Bedford Twp. Community Clean Up Day

*Farmer's Market 2010 (Park Board minutes 2/9/09 show Mr. Pirrone voted "nay" to allow use of township property for TAC market. Also commented he saw no need for such in this township. Later he would deny knowledge of this market by establishing "his own-first in Bedford Township Farmer's Market"; seeking to place it on township property-TAC had asked Mr. Pirrone to work with them on their site-he refused)

*Held 1st. Downtown Temperance Day- businesses donated money to allow free children activities; TAC raised money via booth rentals to fund village projects. Our #1 priority was to design village signs for the entry points to overlay district. To date, 3 of 4 erected.

*Collaborated with Park Board & Dist. 1 Fire Dept. to bring a Christmas event with Santa to Temperance

*Worked with surrounding neighborhoods to form Block Watch areas.

*Re-vitalized the Bedford Twp. Welcome Comm.; currently continues via the BBA

*Held a FIGHT THE BLIGHT campaign within the village overlay district-served as a precursor model for the current yearly clean up day.

*Purchased from Michigan Land Bank, (WITH PERSONAL MONIES) the then blighted lot at the corner of McClanathan & Temperance Rd. Currently TAC is barred from making further improvements to this site.

*TAC proposed the development of a Veterans' Park- architectural rendering done & have dedicated funds for project (recently, details of the project shared with township's Dep. Supervisor, A. Prieur, who has now proposed a veteran project as a brand "new" idea of his own)

*Petitioned Monroe County Drain Comm. to clean Flatt Creek (prev. done 40 yrs. ago)

*Established Phases for downtown streetscape project.

*Collaborated with Post Office to move mailboxes on Lewis Ave. to the same side as the house so residents could safely get mail.

*Bedford Twp. Relay for Life-TAC sponsored a team for 9 yrs. We designed T-shirts each year as a fundraiser to reflect our pride in the Village of Temperance. 2 ACS relay shirt quilts made by TAC members, now hang at the library.

*Charity car shows

*God's Work meals

*Improved and extended sidewalks throughout the downtown district.

Finally, first & foremost; TAC IS NOT & NEVER HAS BEEN A POLITICAL ACTION COMM. or a GLORIFIED BEAUTIFICATION GROUP. Furthermore, TAC wasn't monetarily compensated. No project ever benefited a TAC individual. Approximately four yrs. ago, our big threat was N. Tienvieri, a township board member, attempting to confiscate TAC's earned monies for her personal EDC agendas. LET'S BE VERY CLEAR-TAC did not have a choice where to deposit our monies-fact: we asked to not have our monies deposited in the township coffers. As an arm of the township via co-op with EDC, it was required our monies be held in township coffers; our monies would-could count as a portion of the township's matching funds for grant applications. Sadly four yrs ago the EDC failed to follow up on their own plan to assist our efforts, being told Temperance had nothing to offer. Those are the plain & simple TRUE FACTS-no hype, no cover-up. Under duress & threats, we removed OUR monies & despite the township garnering interest from our funds, we didn't receive any percentage of that interest. Our funds will be used for exactly what we promised- if allowed. We don't want a fight. We have a proven record of working well with others and have done a lot of positive things for Temperance and Bedford Twp. We just want the respect and cooperation we have earned and deserve. We're fed up with the two-faced lies & deceit coming from the head office of this township. The supervisor at a recent township meeting said they wanted to work WITH us but later, actions stemming from his office suggest anything but--cooperation. All we ask is to go forward in our efforts to complete projects and for the township to continue in our footsteps by recognizing our completed projects, accepting our streetscape plans and ensuring our businesses have a voice. We strongly urge the formation of a COMMUNITY Development Comm. which would include the DDA, BBA and the village overlays of Samaria, Lambertville & Temperance.

Respectfully,

*Members of the Temperance Action Committee
Embracing our Past, Envisioning our Future*