



BEDCo. Frequently Asked Questions

What is BEDCo?

The Barrett Economic Development Corporation (BEDCo) is a local nonprofit group. None of its founders get paid. It is prohibited from turning a profit. In fact, one of its main goals is to raise money to give out as grants to people in need.

The IRS calls it an “economic development corporation” — that’s just government lingo. It does *not* mean BEDCo is a for-profit corporation like Ford or Walmart. It simply means our focus is on helping towns like ours bring in new businesses and strengthen the ones already here.

Groups like BEDCo exist all over Pennsylvania. In places like York and Altoona, they have helped fix up downtowns, gotten abandoned properties back into use, and helped bring the best types of jobs and training programs to current residents. Groups like BEDCo help residents and turn their ideas into businesses, get the funding they need, overcome red tape, and grow.

Right now, BEDCo operates on a small budget, made up of donations from people who live and work in Barrett. Down the road, we hope to bring in foundation grants and state and federal money for our community.

Why does Barrett need “economic development”?

Because without new businesses and new residents, taxes will keep climbing. Economic development means spreading the load and making Barrett a place people want to live, work, and invest in again.

What gives BEDCo the right to get involved?

The same right you have. In America, any person, business, religious group, or nonprofit can suggest ideas to the government. What happens next is up to the elected Barrett Township Supervisors. BEDCo can’t pass laws. Only your Supervisors can.

Why was BEDCo formed?

Because we’ve all seen what’s happening:



- Canadensis has been sliding downhill for 25+ years. Empty buildings attract trouble — crime, drugs, and more.
- Barrett already has property rules (since 2008), but they haven't been enforced evenly. That's unfair.
- Out-of-town speculators buy cheap properties, hide behind LLCs, and let them rot.
- Some neighbors and businesses want to do the right thing, but can't afford repairs. They need a helping hand.
- There are not enough good jobs, and it is too hard to start and grow a business here.
- Taxes keep rising. Without new businesses and residents, they will only go higher.

BEDCo was formed to *help* deal with these problems.

Who runs BEDCo?

BEDCo is building three boards. All are still being formed. Anyone who lives or works in Barrett can take part.

- **Board of Directors** – Handles finances and legal matters. When complete, it will have 5 full time residents and 2 part time residents. The current roster includes Michael Allegretti (Chair); Sarah Aubrey (Finance); David Christine (Treasurer); Karl Stearns (Vice Chair); and Karl Weiler (Secretary).
- **Business Advisory Board** – Local business owners who give advice and direction on how to keep businesses alive and attract new ones. Some business owners have already stepped-up by attending two workshops on May 19 and August 19, 2025.
- **Community Advisory Board** – Residents (full-time or part-time) who give advice and direction on how to make Barrett a better place to live and work. The kick-off meeting is November 18, 2025.

Email AskUs@betterbarrett.org or attend one of our meetings to learn more or join the effort.

When was BEDCo formed, and by whom?

The idea for BEDCo started about two years ago. Michael Allegretti, Karl Stearns and Karl Weiler met one another while attending Barrett Township Supervisor meetings. They quickly realized no one else



seemed to be coming. As Canadensis continued to rot, the three guys decided to try and do something, rather than simply complain to the government. The idea picked up steam when, yet another property (the former Payne residence and Cotton Candy Country Store), went to auction. After dozens of meetings, the idea to form an economic development corporation took shape so that residents could be in the driver's seat and we could move quickly. The organization officially formed in April 2025.

What are BEDCo's main goals?

- Fix up Canadensis so it starts to feel like a real village again.
- Give grants (not loans) to property owners who need repairs; but can't afford them, so they don't lose their homes or businesses.
- Improve the local economy and quality of life by supporting small businesses, attracting good-quality jobs, and if necessary, supporting job training programs.
- Push for fairness. If laws are on the books, they should be enforced equally for everyone. Period.

Why propose new ordinances?

We spent a year asking around about what has worked for other towns in PA, and we dug up some sample ordinances that produced real results in townships close to Barrett. We suggested the ideas to the Supervisors and agreed to cover the cost of producing the first drafts, rather than have the taxpayer foot the bill. Some are updates to rules Barrett already has, others are new tools that other towns in PA use successfully.

The Supervisors wanted to hear from the community, so they did that formally and introduced the ordinances at public meetings. Here's the simple version of things:

- **Update the 2008 Property Code** – Barrett already adopted this years ago. We suggested updating it to the 2024 version, rather than keep outdated rules on the books.
- **Quality of Life Tickets** – Quick fines for junk, weeds, trash, abandoned appliances, vehicles, etc. — mostly to stop real estate speculators and absentee owners from letting properties become dangerous or eyesores. Could be limited to commercial properties.
- **Vacant Property Registration** – Forces out-of-towners who purchase property in Barrett under an anonymous LLC, leaving it to rot for years to come, to register and stay accountable. Could be limited to commercial properties only.



- **Asset Attachment** – Makes lazy landlords who ignore court orders pay up instead of dumping costs on taxpayers. Could be limited to commercial properties only.
- **Conservatorship** – A last-resort tool when no owner can be found, or they refuse to act. Without an ordinance like this, a municipality's hands are tied when the owner of an abandoned property, usually someone out of town, refuses to obey the law. This is *not* eminent domain.
- **Repair & Rehab Help** – Provide direct assistance to struggling homeowners and small businesses who want to maintain their properties, but who can't afford it.

The intent was *never* to target homeowners. But that's a real concern that people have been raising, and language can be changed to make that clear.

If you knew people would push back, why do this?

Push back is a sign people actually care. If we were afraid of push back, we would have stayed on the couch. We didn't know how people would react. For years, hardly anyone came to Township meetings. Suddenly, with the Sequine House issue, residents started showing up, speaking out, and asking tough questions. That's good news. It means people are paying attention again.

Is BEDCo trying to take my property?

No. BEDCo cannot and does not want to take anyone's property. Eminent domain (government buying land for public use) is not on the table and a non-profit like BEDCo certainly could never have that power anyway. Conservatorship is only for abandoned, dangerous properties where the owner has walked away and refuses to act.

What about Walmart or a big Data Center?

That's not BEDCo's vision. But more importantly, it's not BEDCo's call. Zoning and land use decisions belong to the Township. Through the new Business Advisory and Community Advisory Boards, you'll have a say in what kind of businesses we should attract. Want small businesses, local farms, new lodging options? Continue to speak out.

We hope that anyone who took the time to read this will join us and help shape the future of Barrett.

Email AskUs@betterbarrett.org or attend one of our meetings to learn more or join the effort.