

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
ESSEX ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
ESSEX TOWN HALL
March 12, 2014 - 4:00pm**

The Essex Economic Development Commission was held on Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 4:00pm. In attendance were Lon Seidman, John Beveridge, Robert Laundry, David Winstead (4:16pm Arrival) Betsy D'Amico and Ed Cook. Also in attendance Kelley Frazier, Secretary to the Commission and Norm Needleman, First Selectman. Absent: David Sousa

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Seidman at 4:00pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion made by John Beveridge and seconded by Betsy D'Amico the Commission unanimously **VOTED** to approve the minutes from the February 2014 Essex Economic Development Commission meeting.

To accommodate the attendees the Workforce Alliance and the Brownfield Remediation presentations were moved to the beginning of the agenda.

Presentation: Workforce Alliance

Mr. Steve Johnson from Workforce Alliance gave a presentation about the career services they provide for IT, manufacturing and engineering personnel who are unemployed or underemployed. Workforce Alliance provides short term grants that can help employers pay for on the job training, funded through the H1b visa program.

Presentation: Brownfield Remediation – Amy Vaillancourt

Amy Vaillancourt is a brownfield project manager from Tighe and Bond. Ms. Vaillancourt gave a presentation about the services her company provides and some of the projects she has worked on to remediate brownfield properties. In many cases having the project led by a municipality helps things to run more smoothly, as the municipal entity can more easily be the recipient of state and federal cleanup funds.

Visitors:

Judie Heiser from the Essex Board of Trade

Commissioners:

None

REPORT FROM TOWN HALL

Mr. Needleman gave a brief update on the planning process for the Centerbrook Grant. He noted that we are seeking federal transportation monies for sidewalks going from Spencer's Corner to Bokum Road. Essex may want to consider applying for the new STEAP grant. The application is due in one month. Mr. Needleman noted that we are moving aggressively ahead on the Walnut Street bridge project. Mr. Seidman suggested including signage with possible grant monies for any future STEAP application. Mr. Needleman discussed the new street signs in town which now meet federal regulations.

COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Public Comment

None

ACTION ITEMS

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Centerbrook Grant – Upcoming Public Discussion

This discussion will be at the Essex Elementary school on March 25, 2014.

Referrals from Zoning

None

Signage

Discussed previously.

STEAP & Ivoryton Grants

Discussed previously.

Farmer's Market Grant

No update.

NEW BUSINESS

None

Executive Session – Confidential Business Matter

Executive session cancelled.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded the Commission unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 5:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Commission Secretary