

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
ESSEX ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
ESSEX TOWN HALL
December 11, 2013 - 4:00pm**

The Essex Economic Development Commission was held on Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at 4:00pm. In attendance were John Beveridge, David Winstead, Betsy D'Amico Ed Cook, Robert Laundry and David Sousa. Also in attendance was Kelley Frazier, Secretary to the Board. Absent: Lon Seidman

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by acting Chair Mr. Cook at 4:09pm.

Mr. Needleman introduced Chris Dobbs who has taken the position as the new leader of the Connecticut River Museum. Mr. Beveridge suggested having an antique car show as they currently do with antique boats.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion made by Mr. Winstead and seconded by Mr. Beveridge the Commission unanimously **VOTED** to approve the minutes from the November 2013 Essex Economic Development Commission meeting.

Visitors:

Judie Heiser was present representing the Essex Board of Trade.

Susan Malan was present.

Mr. Needleman was present.

Commissioners:

None

REPORT FROM TOWN HALL

Mr. Needleman noted that the Ivoryton Grant is being reviewed and a decision as to what work will be done will be made soon. He noted that there are several zoning changes proposed. He noted that he wants to make sure these changes encourage new business in our villages.

Upon a motion made and seconded, the Economic Develop Commission unanimously **VOTED** to add an agenda item to discuss the Proposed Text Amendment to Zoning Regulation Section 50(Prohibitions).

COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

EDC Meeting Schedule 2014

Mr. Winstead and Mr. Beveridge will not be available in October.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Beveridge and seconded by Mr. Winstead, the Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to approve the 2014 meeting schedule as presented.

CT Main Street Center Renewal

Upon a motion made by Mr. Winstead and seconded by Mr. Beveridge the Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to renew the CT Main Street Center membership.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Home Offices

Mr. Beveridge suggested that we may consider wanting getting more information regarding home offices. The Commission discussed if permits are needed and what constitutes needing a permit. Mr. Cook said that there are zoning regulations, but they may not be detailed enough. He noted that this comes under Customary Home Occupation. Ms. Malan noted that you do need a zoning compliance certificate. It was suggested that these requirements should be reviewed so that this is monitored better. Mr. Winstead suggested asking the Zoning Enforcement Officer to attend the next meeting to discuss this. Mr. Beveridge stated that this is not to discourage home offices.

STEAP & Ivoryton Grants

We have not heard anything regarding the grant.

Farmer's Market Grant

No Update

Centerbrook Grant

No Update

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Malan is working with the Rotary Club on new signage for the three villages.

ZONING TEXT DISCUSSION

Ms. Malan discussed the proposed zoning changes. We need to discuss and update the legacy items. The Commission discussed the separate business district which is a mixed use zone. The Public Hearing is December 16th. Mr. Cook noted that some of the regulations have made it easier for business to come to Essex.

Ms. Malan asked if someone from EDC could attend the hearing. She also asked members to email her with comments regarding the zoning regulations. Mr. Cook will try to attend the Public Hearing.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion made and duly seconded, the Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 4:48.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley S. Frazier, Essex Economic Development Commission Clerk