

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
ESSEX ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
ESSEX TOWN HALL
November 13, 2013 - 4:00pm**

The Essex Economic Development Commission was held on Wednesday, November 13, 2013 at 4:00pm. In attendance were Lon Seidman, John Beveridge, Ed Cook, Robert Laundry and David Sousa. Also in attendance was Kelley Frazier, Secretary to the Board. Absent: Betsy D'Amico and David Winstead

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Seidman at 4:04pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion made by David Sousa and seconded by John Beveridge the Commission unanimously **VOTED** to approve the minutes from the October 2013 Essex Economic Development Commission meeting.

Visitors:

Judie Heiser was present representing the Essex Board of Trade.

Commissioners:

None

REPORT FROM TOWN HALL

Ms. Malan gave a brief update of the prospective new businesses interested in space in one of our three villages. She discussed the Mainstreet Initiative and the meeting about the focus for this initiative. Approximately sixty people attended the Main Street discussion. There were good questions and a consensus that Centerbrook should be the focus of a grant application to conduct a study of the area that will need to be submitted by November 19th. Ms. Malan gave an update on prospective businesses in all three villages.

There was a brief discussion regarding food trucks in our town. This trend is growing and we may need to research the permitting and approval process for these trucks. There was a brief discussion regarding the Plan of Conservation and Development that will be revised in the near future. Mr. Needleman will be meeting with the Chairmen of the Zoning and Planning to discuss issues that may need to be addressed.

COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Main Street Initiative

This has been previously discussed.

Blight Property Discussion

Mr. Needleman noted that this is still being discussed after comments from the public at the recent Town Meeting.

STEAP & Ivoryton Grants

Construction is underway and going well. The playscape will be erected next week.

Farmer's Market Grant

Mr. Sousa noted that the grant has been submitted. He would like to work with Park and Recreation to make the park more appealing.

NEW BUSINESS

There is a hope that a group will be formed to work on the Centerbrook initiative and that this group would work with the other two villages.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Beveridge and seconded by Robert Laundry the Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to endorse the Preservation Place Grant as written and to write a letter of endorsement which will be included with the grant. The motion passed.

Signs for our Villages

Ms. Heiser would like to have signage between the villages to direct people to each village. She feels many local towns have done something for travelers exiting off of Route 9. Mr. Seidman referred to West Hartford which also has a number of commerce centers and placed signs to direct visitors to them. Mr. Needleman noted that this is a great idea. Mr. Seidman will contact someone in West Hartford to get more information regarding their signs. Ms. Heiser will get information on signs that we would be appealing for our villages.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion made and duly seconded, the Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 5:07.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley S. Frazier, Essex Economic Development Commission Clerk