

**Economic Development Commission Meeting  
Essex Town Hall  
June 14, 2017 – 4:00 p.m. Auditorium**

Essex Economic Development Commission meeting was held on June 14, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. In attendance – Chair Janet Peckinpaugh, Ed Cooke, Brian Weinstein, Russ Smith (Zoning Liaison); George Sexton (Planning Liaison); David Sousa, and David Winstead. Absent – Betsy D’Amico

**Call to Order**

Chair Peckinpaugh called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

**Approval of minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2017 meeting made by David Winstead, seconded by Ed Cooke; the Essex Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to approve the minutes.

**Visitors**

Dr. Ruth Levy Region 4, Kristina Martineau, Region 4 and Larry Athay and daughter

**Report from Town Hall Consultant/Zoning matters**

Economic Development Consultant Susan Malan monthly update – see attached.

Susan Malan ED Consultant gave the updated Zoning Officer report – see attached.

**Presentation by Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent of Schools Region 4 and Kristina Martineau, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Region 4;**

Dr. Levy and Ms. Martineau gave a presentation to the commission about programs they have developed, are developing, and implementing that will aid in the growth, stability and enhanced economic development in Essex. They discussed (and distributed) the results of the reaccreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC); they explained the schedule modification that will start in the Fall of 2017. They gave an in depth overview of the International Baccalaureate and the International Learning Opportunities with China program. There was a discussion with the commission with several asking detailed questions about the various programs.

**Understanding and Applying for Permits from the Essex Land Use Office**

Ed Cooke submitted his recommended edits to the document.

**Discussion items**

David Winstead and Chair Peckinpaugh raised questions about the current septic conditions and the impediment to growth and stability in the Villages.

The Commission discussed what items they could actively work on to promote enhanced Economic Development in Town. Ms Athay commented that signage in and around Essex Village was not adequate, there was discussion about Route 9, Rte 153 and 154 lacking proper signage to direct people to each of the three Villages.

After some discussion a decision was made to focus on the following key items: septic – alternatives, community, etc. Signage – in the Villages for both directional and specifying parking areas. David Sousa

suggested adding Google tags to point out parking areas. Signage from Route 9, 153 and 154. There was also discussion about an information kiosk potential near Essex Steam Train.

**Planning Commission liaison report**

George Sexton gave the Commission an update on the housing survey, results and next steps

**Zoning Commission liaison report**

Russ Smith reported on the pending application for Essex Boat Works and there was a brief discussion about the accessory apartment recommendation from Planning pending Zoning action.

**New Business**

None

**Adjournment**

David Winstead made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ed Cooke – Economic Development Commission unanimously VOTED to adjourn 5:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Malan  
Economic Development Consultant