

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
Savour Café & Bakery – 90 Main Street, Centerbrook
October 11, 2017 - 4:00PM

The Essex Economic Development Commission was held on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at 4:00pm. In attendance were Chair Janet Peckinpaugh, David Sousa, David Winstead (Arrival 4:09pm), Ed Cook and Brian Weinstein. Also in attendance were George Sexton, Planning, Russ Smith, Zoning and Kelley Frazier, Secretary to the Commission. Absent: Betsy D'Amico

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Peckinpaugh at 4:03pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion made by Ed Cook and seconded by David Sousa the Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to approve the June 12, 2017 and the August 9, 2017 minutes.

INTRODUCTION

Visitors:

Ms. Malan introduced Deb Bliska who is interested in possibly opening a new business in town.

Commissioners:

No additional comment.

REPORT FROM TOWN HALL/CONSULTANT/ZONING MATTERS

Ms. Malan discussed her report. There is a new financial planner moving to the property next to the Essex Mart. Olive Oyls will not sublet their old building at this time. Earth and Fire Pottery Gallery will have an open house on October 21st. Boatworks did get approval. Scotch Plain Tavern will open in November.

COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT

No Additional Comments.

ACTION ITEMS

Update on Google Tags – E. Cook

Instructions have been distributed. Mr. Cook will submit the corrections for the errors on GPS. Town landmarks will also be updated after he gets approval from the town to do this.

DISCUSSION ITEMS – 2 TEXT AMENDMENTS

Parking Ordinance

Discussions held regarding the amendment proposal for parking in the village of Essex. Other villages will be addressed as needed. This is a new ordinance. The new ordinance will mirror other neighboring towns. Enforcement is difficult. There are no parking restriction, but discussion was held regarding oversized buses (more than 2 spaces) who are parking in the village. It was suggested that buses park at Town hall. Ms. Peckinpaugh will ask Mr. Guskowski for guidance on wording. Ms. Peckinpaugh will write a letter to the Traffic Authority requesting village businesses ask commercial vehicles and buses park at town hall.

Upon a motion made by Ed Cook and seconded by Brian Weinstein the Economic Development Commission **VOTED** to ask the Zoning Commission to eliminate onsite parking requirements and to include Section 100L.

Accessory Apartments Over Retail/Commercial Space in Essex Village

Regulations for accessory apartments above commercial buildings were discussed. The Commission agreed that this should be allowed, but there is no consistency. Review of the regulations is for Essex Village. Mr. Cook feels that there are many limitations which need to be addressed so that it is workable for all villages. A proposal for a complete change to cover all three villages should be considered. Zoning will review at the next meeting. This will be tabled for review in the future.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded the Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 5:08p.m.

The next meeting will be held on November 8th at the Tap Room at the Blue Hound. Ms. Malan will confirm availability.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Commission Clerk