

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
ESSEX TOWN HALL
MAY 11, 2016 - 4:00PM**

The Essex Economic Development Commission was held on Wednesday, May 11, 2016 at 4:00pm. In attendance were Lon Seidman, David Sousa, Betsy D'Amico, George Sexton and Janet Peckinpaugh. Also in attendance were Norm Needleman, First Selectman, Susan Malan Economic Developer and Kelley Frazier, Secretary to the Commission. Absent: Ed Cook, David Winstead

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Seidman at 4:01pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Essex Economic Development **VOTED** to approve the April 2016 minutes.

INTRODUCTION

Visitors:

None

REPORT FROM TOWN HALL/CONSULTANT /ZONING MATTERS

Ms. Malan discussed her report which she previously distributed to commission members.

COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT

The Clark Group

Herb Clark was present and discussed the expansion to his property located at 85 Westbrook Road. The Nalas Engineering Company needs to expand their business and may have to leave Essex if the building they are currently in cannot be expanded. The expansion will require a variance which require approval from the Zoning Board of Appeals. This meeting is scheduled on June 21st. Mr. Seidman suggested writing a letter in support of this expansion. Mr. Clark has also requested that a Commission member attend the meeting and support this expansion.

Upon a motion made by Lon Seidman and seconded by Janet Peckinpaugh, the Essex Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to endorse the proposed expansion of 85 Westbrook Road and to write a letter to the Zoning Board of Appeals supporting this expansion.

Essex House

Mr. Taylor is a chef who recently moved back to the area. He is planning to purchase a property in Centerbrook to open a seafood restaurant called Essex House. He would like support from the Economic Development Commission as he moves along in the process of opening the restaurant. He would like to educate people in the area how to cook fish. Tentatively, there is a public hearing scheduled for June 16th. He is awaiting confirmation that he is on the agenda. He noted that the septic is adequate for the property and there is parking for 64 cars. The Commission agreed that it would be beneficial to have another restaurant in Centerbrook. Mr. Seidman will write a letter of endorsement on behalf of the Commission when a hearing date is established.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to endorse the proposed Essex House Restaurant which will be located in Centerbrook.

Mr. Hiram Peck discussed a program for Form Based Codes and Economic Development. He successfully implemented this program in Simsbury. This system will make the zoning process easier. Grant funding may be available for this plan. Discussion ensued regarding how this plan may work for Essex. Ms. Malan suggested getting energy behind this and present it to the other commissions who may find it beneficial. A joint meeting with Zoning was suggested.

ACTION ITEMS

EDC Forums/Discuss moving official EDC meeting time on June 8th to public forum time

The first EDC forum is scheduled for May 24th at 7:00pm. Mr. Sousa suggested sending an email out to Ivoryton Alliance members. Members decided that the June meeting be rescheduled after this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded the Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 5:40p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Commission Clerk