

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
ESSEX TOWN HALL
December 14, 2016 - 4:00PM**

The Essex Economic Development Commission was held on Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at 4:00pm. In attendance were Lon Seidman, George Sexton, David Winstead and Janet Peckinpaugh. Also in attendance were Norm Needleman, First Selectman, Susan Malan Economic Development Consultant and Kelley Frazier, Secretary to the Commission. Absent: Ed Cook, Betsy D'Amico

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Seidman at 4:06pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion made by David Winstead and seconded by Janet Peckinpaugh, the Essex Economic Development Committee unanimously **VOTED** to approve the minutes from November 9, 2016.

Diana Gregory, representing Essex Boatworks, was present to discuss the issue regarding a driveway and steps which has been brought to Planning. Essex Boatworks intends to construct a new building at the end of the driveway that will have a restaurant as an accessory use. Their Zoning application will allow for that restaurant accessory use. The Committee discussed the regulations for having restaurants in a marine district. Essex Boatworks is proposing a 55 seat restaurant. The Commission agrees that another restaurant will be beneficial.

Planning has approved this because it meets the requirements of the POCD.

Upon a motion made by David Winstead and seconded by Janet Peckinpaugh the Essex Economic Development Committee unanimously **VOTED** to endorse the text amendment that has already been approved by Planning.

A letter will be drafted by Mr. Seidman to the Zoning Commission in support of the application, as the commission believes more dining options in the Essex Village is necessary.

INTRODUCTION

Visitors:

Brian Weinstein

Commissioners:

No additional comment.

REPORT FROM TOWN HALL/CONSULTANT /ZONING MATTERS

Olive Oyl's will be moving into the former Village Provision space. There will be seating available. The Weekend Kitchen is moving to the French Hen space. A new Centerbrook restaurant is slated to be open in the spring and the building is currently being renovated. Cumberland Farms continues to work with the State for approval on reconstructing their building. The Red Balloon is going to close after 30 years of business. The Christmas Barn will also close the end of the year. The Post Office sold and there is a company from Glastonbury moving into the space.

COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Atkinson asked if there are any thought to bring additional light industrial companies to our town. Commission members discussed current light industrial occupancy which they believe is full or close to full townwide. The Economic Development Committee agrees that they would like to attract these companies, but areas zoned for this is limited.

ACTION ITEMS

Request from the Zoning Commission

Zoning is reviewing this.

2017 Meeting Schedule

Upon a motion made by Lon Seidman and seconded by David Winstead the Economic Development Committee unanimously **VOTED** to the 2017 meeting on the second Wednesday of the month at 4:00pm.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

No additional items.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded the Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 4:47p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Commission Clerk