

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT  
ESSEX ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
ESSEX TOWN HALL  
April 9, 2014 - 4:00pm**

The Essex Economic Development Commission was held on Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 4:00pm. In attendance were Lon Seidman, John Beveridge, Robert Laundry, David Sousa, Betsy D'Amico and Ed Cook. Also in attendance Kelley Frazier, Secretary to the Commission, Susan Malan, Consultant and Norm Needleman, First Selectman. Absent: David Winstead

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Seidman at 4:00pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon a motion made by Betsy D'Amico and seconded by Ed Cook the Commission unanimously **VOTED** to approve the minutes from the March 2014 Essex Economic Development Commission meeting.

**Visitors:**

Judie Heiser from the Essex Board of Trade discussed signage for all three villages. This may be considered as part of the STEAP grant application. Mr. Beveridge volunteered to work on this.

**Commissioners:**

None

**REPORT FROM TOWN HALL/CONSULTANT**

Ms. Malan gave a brief update. She distributed a draft version of proposed Zoning Regulations that will address signage in town. Members will discuss this at the next EDC meeting. Deep River is expanding their sewer which will make them attractive for business. They are putting together another incubator park. The River Cog is looking at cargo rail usage for the tracks that are used by the Valley Railroad, this is a state requirement and does not mean there are freight plans for the tracks.

**COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Centerbrook Grant – Upcoming Public Discussion**

The next meeting is April 15, 2014.

**STEAP**

The STEAP grant application must be submitted by Friday. This application will be for assistance with the town's ongoing infrastructure improvement plan. The Commission agreed that directional signage should be included in this grant. Sidewalks from Bokum Center to Centerbrook Center were discussed. Ms. Heiser discussed. Members also discussed sidewalks along Bokum road in Centerbrook between the Colonial market shopping center and downtown Centerbrook. Mr. Needleman discussed his concerns having crosswalks on this road which could make it treacherous. The State will be upgrading the traffic signal in Centerbrook. Ms. Malan suggested having the River Cog complete a study for this area and where signage would be best. Mr. Needleman discussed having a study completed to decide what kinds of signs we need and where they should be placed.

Upon a motion made by Jay Beveridge and seconded by Robert Laundry, the EDC unanimously **VOTED** to endorse the STEAP application and to amend the application to include \$15,000 for a study and installation of signage.

**Farmer's Market Grant**

Mr. Sousa gave a brief update on the status of the Farmer's Market Grant. Additional information has been requested before funds are distributed. A grant may be applied for in a year to improve the whole park area. An upgrade to the electrical would be beneficial. Mr. Sousa noted that music is scheduled for the entire season.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Beveridge asked about the Battle site Essex celebration. There will be a parade on May 10th. The activities begin on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Battlesiteessex.org is the site for the list of events.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly made and seconded the Commission unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 4:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Commission Clerk