

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
ESSEX ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
ESSEX TOWN HALL
October 9, 2013 - 4:00pm**

The Essex Economic Development Commission was held on Wednesday, October 9, 2013 at 4:00pm. In attendance were Lon Seidman, Betsy D’Amico, Ed Cook, Robert Laundry and David Sousa. Also in attendance was Kelley Frazier, Secretary to the Board. Absent: John Beveridge and David Winstead

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Seidman at 4:05pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion made by Robert Laundry and seconded by Ed Cook the Commission unanimously **VOTED** to approve the minutes from the September 2013 Essex Economic Development Commission meeting.

Visitors:

Judie Heiser was present representing the Essex Board of Trade.

Commissioners:

None

REPORT FROM TOWN HALL

Mr. Needleman and Ms. Malan were not present. Mr. Seidman read an update from Ms. Malan. She noted that progress is being made on filling vacant stores and many prospective businesses are looking at space in our three villages.

COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Commission Appointments and Expiring Terms

Ms. D’Amico and Mr. Sousa would like to remain on the Board. Mr. Seidman will also remain on the Board.

Main Street Initiative

Mr. Seidman will get information to Ms. D’Amico regarding the Main Street Initiative.

POCD – Adding a List of Critical and Vulnerable Properties

A list was submitted to the Planning Commission.

Blight Property Discussion

There is a Public Hearing on November 6, 2013 at 7:00pm to discuss the Blighted Properties.

STEAP & Ivoryton Grants

Construction is underway on the Town Center project.

Farmer’s Market Grant

Mr. Sousa presented the draft of the Ivoryton Farmer’s Market Grant. This grant is a Farm Transition Grant from the Department of Agriculture. The application is for \$2,999. This application needs to be submitted by November 8, 2013.

Upon a motion made by Ed Cook and seconded by Robert Laundry the Economic Development Commission **VOTED** to forward the Ivoryton Farmer’s Market Grant application to the Essex First Selectmen to compel signature of the grant application. Ayes: Ms. D’Amico, Mr. Cook and Mr. Laundry. Abstentions: Mr. Sousa

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Seidman discussed that the village of Centerbrook is the focus of a Main Street Initiative grant. Ms. Heiser noted that she is unclear how the selection process occurred. Mr. Cook stated that all villages have issues that could be considered. Mr. Seidman will discuss this further with Ms. Malan and First Selectman Needleman. It was also discussed that better signage in Centerbrook would be beneficial and that additional planning for better living needs to be considered for Centerbrook.

Mr. Seidman will forward a copy of the grant application to Commission members.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion made by Ed Cook and seconded by David Sousa, the Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 4:32.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley S. Frazier, Essex Economic Development Commission Clerk