

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT  
ESSEX ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
ESSEX TOWN HALL  
November 12, 2014 - 4:00PM**

The Essex Economic Development Commission was held on Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at 4:00pm. In attendance were Acting Chairman Ed Cook, David Winstead, David Sousa, Jay Beveridge and Betsy D'Amico. Also in attendance Kelley Frazier, Secretary to the Commission. Absent: Lon Seidman and Robert Laundry

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Cook at 4:04pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon a motion made by David Winstead and seconded by John Beveridge the Commission unanimously **VOTED** to approve the minutes from the October 2014 Essex Economic Development Commission meeting.

**INTRODUCTION**

**Visitors:**

**Essex Island Marian Sale**

Doug Domenie from Essex Island Marina was visiting to understand the function of the Economic Development Committee. Mr. Domenie discussed the history of Brewer's Yacht Yard. He talked about what he hopes to accomplish with the purchase of Essex Island Marina. Mr. Beveridge asked why the interest in going to Essex Island Marina has waned in the past years? Mr. Domenie feels that it is the cost of fuel and the recognition that there was no money put back into the island in the past few years. Mr. Cook asked what things are missing in our town? He noted that people want to have places to go shopping in a seaport town. People need activities like kayak, bicycle and paddle boards rentals in the cove. Mr. Beveridge asked about a possible restaurant at Essex Island Marina? Mr. Domenie said that this would be beneficial, but it is important to keep the restaurant family friendly. Mr. Winstead hopes that the Economic Development Commission can help to put the excitement back into Essex and Essex Island Marina. He noted that they may be competing with other Brewer's Boat Yards and the amenities they offer. Brewer's is just beginning to understand island ownership and how to transport goods and customers onto the island. Doug Domenie will be going to the Zoning Board of Appeals to discuss the entrance to the Ferry launch on Ferry Street. . He discussed the possibility of putting up bungalows for boat owners for overnight accommodations. The Commission thanked Mr. Domenie for coming.

**Commissioners:**

No Comment

**REPORT FROM TOWN HALL/CONSULTANT**

Ms. Malan previously distributed her report to the Commission. She discussed the new reporting she is receiving regarding permits issued in town. TIF (Tax Incremental Financing) will be discussed further in a future meeting. She did note that TIF funds can be used for infrastructure. The Essex Junction issues are being addressed. The owner of the Ivoryton Piano Factory has been asked to remove items in the front of the building. The Blue Hound is working to install a new septic system

on their own property that will accommodate the expansion of their current business. The septic issues in Ivoryton with the shared septic will then be resolved.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

##### **Plan of Conservation and Development**

There is a meeting tomorrow night at 7:30pm. David Sousa will try to attend this meeting. Susan Malan will attend the meeting. There is a working draft on line. All members were asked to review this draft and submit comments to Ms. Malan.

##### **LoopNet Subscription**

Ms. Malan would like to get a subscription. This has been approved by Mr. Needleman. This is an \$89.00 fee per month.

Upon a motion made by David Winstead and seconded by John Beveridge the Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to approve the purchase of a one year subscription to LoopNet. Mr. Winstead then amended his motion to approve the purchase of a one year premium subscription to LoopNet. The motion passed.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

##### **Route 9 Overpass/Gateway Improvement Discussion**

The letter was developed and held by Mr. Needleman as he is now talking directly with personnel from the DOT. . Mr. Needleman noted that there is not funding for the bridge to be painted. He will work with the DOT to resolve this issue. There is an invasive plant that needs to be removed. It was decided that a letter will be sent to Mr. Miller and the DOT representative regarding the invasive plants that need to be removed. The EDC will also contact someone from the Essex Weeders to write a letter to the DOT regarding the invasive plants.

##### **Food Trucks**

This will be discussed at a future meeting.

##### **Zoning Signage Regulations**

Ms. Malan distributed the draft of the new regulations. Members will review and send any comments to her.

##### **Centerbrook Grant**

The \$10,000 grant has been spent. We are now writing a STEAP grant in the amount of \$496,000 for sidewalks, signage and upgrades. This is being reviewed by Mr. Needleman.

**Other:** Cumberland Farms has discussed expansion.

##### **Ivoryton Grants**

The Board of Selectmen will vote on the work to be done soon. The work will start in the spring.

**Farmer's Market Grant**

There will be another grant submitted to Mr. Needleman for approval. The grant will request additional funding from last year's request. The entertainment has been beneficial for the entire market. Mr. Sousa would like to have this included in the Park and Recreation brochure.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly made and seconded the Commission unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 5:07 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Commission Clerk