

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
ESSEX ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
ESSEX TOWN HALL
July 8, 2015 - 4:00PM**

The Essex Economic Development Commission was held on Wednesday, July 8, 2015 at 4:00pm. In attendance were Chairman Lon Seidman, Robert Laundry, David Sousa, Betsy D'Amico, Ed Cook and Janet Peckinpugh(4:06pm Arrival). Also in attendance Norm Needleman, First Selectman, Joel Marzi, and Kelley Frazier, Secretary to the Commission. 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 David Sousa the Commission unanimously to approve the minutes from June 10, 2015 Essex Economic Development Commission meeting.

INTRODUCTION

Visitors:

Cumberland Farms

Mr. John Marth, Project Manager for the Cumberland Farms was present. He presented the revised plans for the existing Cumberland Farms property in Centerbrook. The Commission had various questions regarding the plan for renovation.

Mr. Marth asked the Commission to support this project with a vote of support which the members did not feel appropriate at this time. Mr. Seidman noted that there are many variances that need to be addressed by the ZBA(Zoning Board of Appeals). He also noted that Cumberland Farms had indicated a willingness and had committed last month to reach out to the abutting property owners which they have not yet done. Mr. Cook feels that from an economic standpoint the renovations are needed, but he would also like Cumberland Farms to address the neighbor's concerns. Mr. Marth noted that the changes made to the initial plan were due to concerns voiced by the neighbors. Mr. Marth addressed site lighting. Cumberland Farms is willing to work with the Town to revise the plans to suit their requirements. There is a ZBA meeting on July 19th to discuss the variances. Mr. Seidman thanked Mr. Marth for coming and presenting to the Commission. Mr. Joel Marzi was present and requested that the EDC not act on this at this time. He would prefer concerns are addressed before this would happen.

Judy Heiser, Essex Board of Trade

Ms. Heiser discussed the Town Tag Sale and other upcoming events.

Commissioners:

There was a joint meeting with EDC members, Zoning, and Planning. It was a productive meeting attended by Janet Peckinpugh, David Sousa, and Susan Malan.

REPORT FROM TOWN HALL/CONSULTANT

Mr. Needleman stated that the work in Ivoryton will be complete sometime next week. The delays have been related to the color of the curb and sidewalk. The end product will be very nice. The roof at the Elementary School is being replaced. The Park and Rec Summer Camp is now at Town Hall for this summer only. There were various events to bring people into town. This has been good for our businesses. He noted that we have recovered from the winter. Mr. Needleman is in support of Zoning rewriting the zoning regulations.

COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Wayne D'Amico voiced his concerns that the zoning regulations are so specific. He feels we need broader regulations so that businesses can bring something better to the community.

ACTION ITEMS

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Witch Hazel Driveway

This has received approval from Zoning.

Route 9 Overpass/Gateway Improvement Discussion

No Update.

Ivoryton Grant / Construction Progress

Discussed previously.

Zoning Signage Regulations

Discussed previously.

Centerbrook STEAP Grant

We are still waiting to hear if our application was approved.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded the Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Commission Clerk