

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO COMMISSION APPROVAL AT THE NEXT MEETING  
ESSEX ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING  
ESSEX TOWN HALL  
December 10, 2014 - 4:00PM**

The Essex Economic Development Commission was held on Wednesday, December 10, 2014 at 4:00pm. In attendance were Lon Seidman, John Beveridge, Robert Laundry, David Sousa and Betsy D'Amico. Also in attendance Kelley Frazier, Secretary to the Commission and Susan Malan, Consultant. Absent: David Winstead and Ed Cook

**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 **VOTED** to approve the minutes from the November 12, 2014 Essex Economic Development Commission meeting. Mr. Seidman and Mr. Laundry abstained.

**INTRODUCTION**

**Visitors:**

Judie Heiser, Essex Board of Trade. The Illuminations had lower attendance than hoped for due to rain last week. She encouraged everyone to shop local. The Trees and the Rigging and parade went well.

**Commissioners:**

No Comment

**REPORT FROM TOWN HALL/CONSULTANT**

Ms. Malan previously distributed her report to the Commission. She discussed the status of various businesses in our three villages. Ms. Malan attends monthly meeting with an informal group of Middlesex Economic Developers. This meeting will be held next month in Essex. She noted that Loop net is converting to Costar and will not be purchased at this time.

**COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Approve Meeting Dates for 2015**

Upon a motion made by Betsy D'Amico and seconded by Robert Laundry, the Essex Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to accept the 2015 meeting dates as proposed.

**Plan of Conservation and Development Working Draft**

Input is requested by the Planning Commission. Please send comments to Mr. Seidman. Mr. Seidman will compile this information for discussion at an upcoming Plan of Conservation and Development meeting. Mr. Laundry is the Planning Commission Representative and will bring the information to the group. Mr. Sousa will address the Committee working on planning for agriculture in our towns. The property on Westbrook Road will be addressed.

**Gigabit RFQ**

Mr. Seidman brought forward a proposal from the State Comptrollers office regarding an RFQ for gigabit Internet in the state. The town's only obligation is to be helpful to the providers that might like to try and service the town.

Upon a motion made by Jay Beveridge and seconded by Robert Laundry, the Essex Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to recommend to the Selectmen that the town support this initiative, which has no cost to the town.

The renewal of our membership in the Main Street Initiative was briefly discussed.

Upon a motion made by Jay Beveridge and seconded by Betsy D'Amico, the Essex Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to approve the renewal of the Main Street annual membership.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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

The letter is ready to be submitted. The Tree Committee is working on a plan to beautify the area around the electric substation.

### **Zoning Signage Regulations**

No Update

### **Centerbrook Grant**

This has been submitted. We will not hear if we are approved until summer.

### **STEAP & Ivoryton Grants**

### **Farmer's Market Grant**

Mr. Sousa reapplied for this grant for 2015. We will hear in late April or May. This will be removed from the agenda until closer to this date.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Malan has requested a list of new businesses that are requesting permits. The Witch Hazel complex is being discussed at ZBA. She suggested that the EDC consider being involved in this matter.

Mr. Seidman thanked Mr. Beveridge for his many years of service to the town and the Economic Development Commission.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly made and seconded the Commission unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 4:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Commission Clerk