

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
ESSEX ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
ESSEX TOWN HALL
May 13, 2015 - 4:00PM**

The Essex Economic Development Commission was held on Wednesday, May 11, 2015 at 4:00pm. In attendance were Chairman Lon Seidman, David Sousa, Betsy D'Amico and Janet Peckinpaugh. Also in attendance Kelley Frazier, Secretary to the Commission and Norm Needleman, First Selectman. Absent: Ed Cook, Robert Laundry and David Winstead

CALL TO ORDER

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

Mr. Seidman introduced Ms. Peckinpaugh as the new member of the Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion made by Betsy D'Amico and seconded by David Sousa the Commission unanimously **VOTED** to approve the minutes from April 2015 Essex Economic Development Commission meeting.

INTRODUCTION

Visitors:

Judie Heiser, Essex Board of Trade.

Commissioners:

No Comment

REPORT FROM TOWN HALL/CONSULTANT

Mr. Needleman said that Ivoryton center is currently under construction. There is no additional information on the STEAP grant approval for Centerbrook. He noted that the town budget passed. He said that road repairs from the harsh winter are almost complete. Mr. Needleman also expressed optimism on getting some resolution to the community septic problem in Ivoryton.

Ms. Malan updated the commission on potential business leads she is working on. She noted that Cumberland Farms is looking to expand its Centerbrook location and is currently applying for Zoning variances for that construction. On May 19th the Zoning Board of Appeals will meet to discuss the Cumberland Farms site redevelopment.

COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Witch Hazel Driveway

This will be discussed at the Zoning Commission meeting on May 18, 2015. The Board supports the proposed zoning changes. Mr. Seidman will write a letter from the Commission supporting this request.

Upon a motion made by David Sousa and seconded by Betsy D'Amico the Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to write a letter to the Zoning Commission to support the changes being proposed to the Witch Hazel property.

Route 9 Overpass/Gateway Improvement Discussion

The town is working with DOT to get rid of the invasive bamboo weed species and to come up with a plan to make the area attractive.

Ivoryton Grant Construction Progress

Construction is underway and will hopefully be complete by the time the Farmer's Market starts at the end of June.

Ms. Malan is working with the River Cog to develop a plan to support Economic Development in towns who participate in this organization. The WPCA will be touring the treatment plant in East Haddam.

Plan of Conservation and Development Working Draft

This is still moving forward.

Zoning Signage Regulations

A workshop is scheduled for June 10, 2015 at 7:00p.m. This will be conducted by the Zoning Commission.

Centerbrook STEAP Grant

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

NEW BUSINESS

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Economic Development Commission **VOTED** unanimously to add an Executive Session to the agenda to discuss a confidential local business matter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission moved into Executive Session to discuss a confidential local business matter.

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded the Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Commission Clerk