

**Essex Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Essex Town Hall
February 8, 2012**

Present:

Commissioners David Winstead, Mark Uihlein, Bob Laundry,
John Beveridge and Lon Seidman

First Selectman Norman Needleman

Chairman Thompson and Commissioner Bill Foster were excused from today's
meeting

Guests: Susan Malan

Call to Order:

Commissioner Seidman called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Seidman asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2011 meeting. A motion was offered by Commissioner Beveridge and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Report from Town Hall

Norman Needleman provided a report –

There is an increased budget allocation. We are looking into the possibility of a new brochure or website development.

Some points of interest are the Mazda dealership and Sunoco properties.

There are three other properties in Centerbrook available.

Communications/Public Comment:

n/a

Old Business:

Tide Flex Valve-Pratt Street Flooding

Norman Needleman provided an update –

Sue Bailey is no longer assigned to this project. There is a new representative working on the application. They are hoping to have it submitted to the State in the next week or two.

Essex Village Retail Condition

Norman Needleman provided an update –

There has been some movement and discussions. It seems like there is a movement towards commercial offices.

Discussion.

Kelly Sterner, Director of Finance Administration/Deputy Treasurer, addressed the commission. Region Four is going through the bonding process and needs the top ten employers in town and the number of employees they employ.

Discussion.

Commissioner Seidman will look into this.

STEAP grant-Trolley and Satellite Parking

Norman Needleman provided an update -

We did not get the grant. However, there is sometimes a second round. If that happens, I would suggest that maybe we focus some attention on the Centerbrook retail. We are working on a CREAP grant and looking into sidewalk options and a potential street scape project.

New Business:

2012 Business Development Ideas

Commissioner Seidman – there is an increasing number of independent contractors these days. There are some ideas of providing office space for a fee which would give them a place to do their work, hold meetings and to work amongst others.

Commissioner Beveridge – I think we need to revisit the idea of new business prospects. Mr. Cooke really opened my eyes to some issues. Maybe we can meet with real estate agents and contractors and see what we can do to encourage new businesses to locate here?

Commissioner Uihlein – what is the process for this? Who do they go to?

Norman Needleman – they usually would come to me. The EDC helps as well. I’ve spoken to a few people. There are some incentives to choosing our location – aesthetics, low mil rate, etc.

Commissioner Uihlein - maybe we should look at the process of incoming/prospective businesses.

Commissioner Seidman – maybe we can ask some real estate agents of vacant buildings to come to our next meeting. Or maybe have an EDC member or Selectman go to one of the showings to get a feel of what they are looking for.

Commissioner Uihlein discussed the property behind the Fire Department.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Commissioner Winstead, it was voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Judge