

Essex Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Amended Minutes
Essex Town Hall
April 11, 2012

Present:

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

First Selectman Norman Needleman

Chairman Thompson was excused from today's meeting

Guests: Susan Malan

Call to Order:

Commissioner Seidman called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Seidman asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2012 meeting. A motion was offered by Commissioner Beveridge and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Report from Town Hall

Commissioner Seidman read an email from Norman Needleman regarding Middlesex revitalization committee.

Communications/Public Comment:

Susan Malan suggests that the Economic Development Commission look into the ZBA regulations regarding restaurants. The ZBA denied a prospective business per the regulations but a Commission can petition for the change of regulations. Susan sent some information regarding this to Lee.

Commissioner Seidman stated that the EDC sent a letter of support for that ZBA meeting as well as Commissioner Beveridge attended the meeting on behalf of the EDC. The realtor is looking into options.

Commissioner Beveridge reported that there was no negative response at that meeting.

4: 11pm - Norman Needleman arrived

4:13pm – Mark Uihlein arrive

Norman Needleman further discussed zoning regulations and processes. The more people that talk about and work on this, the better. The EDC could request that they review the regulations in regards to restaurants.

Commissioner Beveridge suggested that a few members attend the next meeting.

Commissioner Uihlein recommended adding AI to the agenda list again so that he can take part in meetings.

Commissioner Beveridge suggested getting the support of the Planning Committee.

Commissioner Laundry will bring discuss the matter with them.

Commissioner Seidman will start a letter expressing the EDC's concern in regards to this issue in particular but in general.

Norman Needleman reported that there is a new business in town, an art school that is opening today.

Commissioner Uihlein inquired about regionalization.

Norman Needleman explained that the State feels that there are too many regional planning agencies and have suggested some voluntary mergers.

Commissioner Winstead inquired whether the industrial park is scheduled for paving.

Norman Needleman stated that it will be completely redone.

4:35pm – Norman Needleman left the meeting.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Winstead, seconded by Commission Beveridge to draft a letter to Zoning about this property and in general. Motion approved unanimously.

Commissioner Uihlein provided proposed mock-ups for a business/EDC website which is being discussed in a town website redesign committee which he is part of. He will email everyone PDF form. We are looking to modernize the Essex on-line presence to enhance the experience for residents, businesses and visitors as part of a discussion and review of proposed Essex website format.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Commissioner ?, it was voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 4:51p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Judge