

*THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
ESSEX ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING*

**ESSEX ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 8, 2012
ESSEX TOWN HALL - 4:00pm**

The Essex Economic Development Commission was held on Wednesday, August 8, 2012. In attendance were Chairman Lee Thompson, John Beveridge, Lon Seidman, David Winstead and Mark Uihlein. Also in attendance was Kelley Frazier, Secretary to the Board. Absent: William Foster and Robert Laundy.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Thompson at 4:05pm.

Mr. Thompson introduced the newest member to the Commission, Ed Cook, who will be sworn in very soon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion made by John Beveridge and seconded by Lon Seidman the Commission approved the minutes from the July 11, 2012 Essex Economic Development Commission meeting.

Mr. Thompson asked audience member Susan Malan to introduce herself.

FIRST SELECTMAN REPORT

No Report

COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT

None

OLD BUSINESS

Retail Condition:

Essex Village

Mr. Thompson noted that there are only two vacancies in Essex Village. The Truffle shop has recently opened. He noted that the former Sotheby's location is still vacant.

Centerbrook

There are still five or six locations open. Sullivan Financial which was previously in Old Saybrook has moved into the location previously occupied by Essex Books.

Ivoryton

All spaces are currently filled.

STEAP

The STEAP application for the new Civic Center Campus has been accepted. Mr. Beveridge reviewed the plans for expansion. As discussed in the last meeting, there will be 25 more parking places available behind the tennis courts. Traffic will be one way in and one way out. The tennis courts will be resurfaced but will remain in the same location. The playscape will also be replaced. The Town Hall parking lot will be repaved. The septic system will remain intact. Mr. Beveridge discussed how this plan will visually tie this space together.

Mr. Thompson noted that the island on Main Street has been replanted by a unanimous donor. He noted it looks wonderful.

NEW BUSINESS

Challenge 2012

The Commission discussed what projects will be the focus moving forward. Mr. Thompson asked the members to be prepared to discuss at the next meeting the focus of the Commission and where budget dollars will be spent.

Mr. Beveridge discussed the article in the *Essex Almanac* about the town. He would like to get reprints of the article and have them placed in various locations including Town Hall. Mr. Seidman will contact the publisher and see if this is possible.

Ms. Malan noted that Art Essex has opened in the previous West Bank Gallery location. Many of the artists are from a gallery in Manhattan. The opening took place last Saturday evening.

Mr. Uihlein reported on the town website update. He is working with a business which could supply a list of businesses which would include emails. There would be a \$100 fee to receive a sample listing. The purchase of the entire list would be relatively inexpensive, but he will need to verify how current the information is. He has researched the state sites and noted that emails are not included. It was recommended that we get feedback from the town businesses. It was discussed how to maintain the information. Mr. Uihlein will get more information and will present it at the next meeting. Mr. Winstead felt it was beneficial to purchase the sample listing.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Winstead and seconded by Mr. Seidman, the Commission unanimously **VOTED** to purchase a sample listing. The motion passed.

Ms. Malan suggested having the Board of Trade jointly fund this project. She noted that security and tenant turnover will be the biggest issues to address. This will enhance our distribution and outreach. Mr. Uihlein asked if there should be two sites for EDC and Board of Trade and it was decided that this information should be merged.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded, the Essex Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 4:34pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Kelley S. Frazier
Essex Economic Development Commission Clerk