

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
ESSEX ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
ESSEX TOWN HALL
DECEMBER 12, 2012 - 4:00pm**

The Essex Economic Development Commission was held on Wednesday, December 12, 2012. In attendance were Acting Chairman Lon Seidman, Robert Laundry, David Winstead (Arrival 4:15pm)Ed Cook, John Beveridge and Mark Uihlein. Also in attendance were Norman Needleman, First Selectman, Kelley Frazier, and Secretary to the Board. Absent: Lee Thompson

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Seidman at 4:03pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion made by John Beveridge and seconded by Mark Uihlein the Commission unanimously **VOTED** to approve the minutes from the November 11, 2012 Essex Economic Development Commission meeting.

INTRODUCTION

Visitors

Audience member Susan Malan from Water Pollution Control Authority and the Sanitary Waste Commission was present

Commissioners:

None Present

REPORT FROM TOWN HALL

Mr. Needleman was not present.

COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comments made.

OLD BUSINESS

STEAP Grant Award

No new updates.

Town Website Update

Mr. Uihlein updated the Commission stating that the town website is still being reviewed. He suggested this Commission start considering what content should be included for Economic Development. Mr. Uihlein will continue to work on this.

Meeting Schedule

Mr. Seidman presented the meeting schedule for 2013. He noted that this schedule can be amended if conflicts should arise.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Laundry and seconded by Mr. Cook, the Commission unanimously **VOTED** to approve the 2013 meeting schedule for the Economic Development Commission as presented.

2013 Budget

Mr. Seidman suggested keeping the same budget as the previous year. Mr. Seidman will discuss any additional expenses Mr. Needleman may have for the EDC budget.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Beveridge and seconded by Mr. Laundry the Commission unanimously **VOTED** to accept the budget in the amount of \$5,000. Mr. Seidman made an amendment stating that this approved budget is contingent upon the First Selectman's additional recommendations to the budget. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Middletown Resolution on Cooperative Event Planning

Mr. Seidman discussed the fishing tournament that Middletown and Haddam were co-sponsoring. He suggested that the town should be open minded to future similar opportunities.

Zoning Restaurant Changes

Mr. Seidman discussed the recent proposed changes to the zoning guidelines regarding zoning for restaurants as reported in Valley News Now. He noted that defining “fast food” is difficult and could limit desirable food establishments while trying to block others. It was suggested that the EDC send a letter to the Zoning Board voicing their concerns. Mr. Seidman said he would first discuss the issue with First Selectman Needleman to learn more and then write a letter from the EDC to the Zoning Board discussing the EDC’s position on this issue.

Ms. Malan noted that Waste Water Management is looking into grants and working on a new plan.

CT Main Street Membership Fee

Ms. Malan noted that there was a presentation to the Board of Trade by the CT Main Street organization. She would like Essex to consider this membership which would give Essex access to their programs on town revitalization. The fee is \$500 and it was suggested that this money come from the EDC budget. Mr. Beveridge suggested having someone from this group present at an EDC meeting in the future. Ms. Malan will work to bring someone to the next meeting.

Mr. Beveridge noted that the Historical Society has received a letter from AT&T requesting additional antennae on the Dickenson Tower. Ms. Malan has requested more information about this proposal. Mr. Winsted will call from the EDC to discuss this project with AT&T.

Sunoco Station

There was a variance approved for the convenience store.

Mr. Seidman noted that officer elections will be done next month.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded, the Essex Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 4:46pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Kelley S. Frazier
Essex Economic Development Commission Clerk