

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
ESSEX TOWN HALL
November 9, 2016 - 4:00PM**

The Essex Economic Development Commission was held on Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at 4:00pm. In attendance were Lon Seidman, George Sexton, David Winstead and Janet Peckinpaugh. Also in attendance were Norm Needleman, First Selectman, Susan Malan Economic Developer and Kelley Frazier, Secretary to the Commission. Absent: Ed Cook, Betsy D'Amico

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of minutes from the prior meeting was tabled until next month.

INTRODUCTION

Visitors:

Brian Weinstein was present and is interested in joining the Commission.

Ms. Heiser, a representative from the Board of Trade, noted that there is still a need for occupants on Main Street. Trees in the Rigging is being planned. Child and Family Services will be doing a designer Christmas tree fundraiser. Garlands are going up on November 22nd. The Essex Ed parade will take place in late January. The Historical Society held their annual meeting at the VFW hall and it was well attended.

Commissioners:

No additional comment.

REPORT FROM TOWN HALL/CONSULTANT /ZONING MATTERS

The business moving into Village Provision is still moving forward. Weekend Kitchen is moving into the space previously occupied by the French Hen. That's the Spirit has opened on Plains Road. Mary V's Nail Salon has gone out of business. There is a small art gallery behind Sweet Peas. Independence Solar has been granted a zoning permit to operate. White Mountain Puzzles is moving to a new space. A new office for Attorney John Senning has also been approved by Zoning. The Post Office has been sold.

Michael Belanger, 80 Plains Road, is asking for a text amendment for his applications for dry marina storage. Commission members discussed fencing and signage. Boat repairs may also be done at this location. Concerns were voiced that this may cause a stockpiling of boats. The Commission agrees that the storage should be in the rear of the property in accordance with existing regulations in the zone.

Upon a motion made by David Winstead and seconded by David Sousa the Essex Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to support the language change at 80 Plains Road with the requirement that boats are stored in the rear of the property, fencing should be used to block the view from the road, all boats, trailers, vehicles or RV's have current registration, and that there will also be no items for sale or display in the front yard of the property. All signage must follow existing guidelines.

The Annual meeting is on for November 21st.

COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Request from the Zoning Commission

Ms. Malan and Mr. Guskowski have not officially been put on the subcommittee for Zoning. It was suggested to notify EDC members when these meetings occur so someone can attend if Ms. Malan is unavailable. The Commission discussed having a member from Zoning join the Commission. This should be a voting member. This will be discussed by Mr. Needleman with the Zoning Commission.

Ms. Peckinpaugh, Mr. Winstead and Mr. Cook are up for reappointment. All are interested in being reappointed.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded the Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 4:55p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Commission Clerk