

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
ESSEX TOWN HALL
FEBRUARY 10, 2016 - 4:00PM**

The Essex Economic Development Commission was held on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 4:00pm. In attendance were Lon Seidman, David Sousa, Betsy D'Amico, David Winstead and Janet Peckinpough. Also in attendance were Norm Needleman, First Selectman, Susan Malan, Consultant and Kelley Frazier, Secretary to the Commission. Absent: Ed Cook

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Seidman at 4:06pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion made by Betsy D'Amico and seconded by David Sousa the Commission **VOTED** to approve the minutes from January 13, 2016 Essex Economic Development Commission meeting.

INTRODUCTION

Visitors:

Judy Heiser Essex Board of Trade. The parade featuring Essex Ed was a great success with over 1,000 people attending.

REPORT FROM TOWN HALL/CONSULTANT /ZONING MATTERS

Ms. Malan discussed her report which she previously distributed to commission members. The previous Middlesex Clinic space may have someone interested in taking it over. Savour Bakery is working on their unit and is hoping to open in the spring. EDC postcards to businesses in our towns have gone out and interested parties are responding to being on the mailing list.

Mr. Needleman noted that budgets are underway. He has not heard about the status of the Steap Grant application. Ms. Malan asked any Commissioners who were available to attend the next Zoning meeting on February 22nd. Cumberland Farms and Essex Station will be on the agenda.

COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

POCD Discussion/Suggested Action Plan Changes

All members have reviewed changes and made suggestions. Mr. Seidman will consolidate suggestions and send to Commission members for a final review.

Business District Retail Amendment

That's the Spirit is interested in purchasing the Riverside Press Building and relocating their business to the new location. There is other retail business in the vicinity, but the zoning does not allow retail in this space. An amendment to Zoning was suggested stating that retail less than 3,000 square feet could be housed in the Business District zone. The owner of That's The Spirit is going before the planning committee for this approval. He noted that in order to keep his business in town he must move to the new location. He would like to begin work on the new space and have it ready by the time his lease expires at the end of September. He will be doing some renovations such as replacing the roof.

Upon a motion made by Lon Seidman and seconded by David Sousa the Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to endorse writing a letter to Planning requesting an amendment be made to the zoning regulations which would allow for retail space less than 3,000 square feet in the Riverside Press building.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Sousa noted that Essex received the grant for the Ivoryton Farmer's Market. There is a Comedy night fundraiser on March 18th at the Playhouse for the Ivoryton Alliance.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded the Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 5:00p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Commission Clerk