

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
ESSEX TOWN HALL – MEETING ROOM A  
May 10, 2017 - 4:00PM**

The Essex Economic Development Commission was held on Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at 4:00pm. In attendance were Chair Janet Peckinpaugh, Betsy D’Amico, Ed Cook, David Winstead, George Sexton, and Brian Weinstein. Also in attendance were Russ Smith, Zoning and Kelley Frazier, Secretary to the Commission. Absent: David Sousa

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Peckinpaugh at 4:00pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon a motion made by Betsy D’Amico and seconded by Brian Weinstein the Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to table the April 12, 2017 minutes.

**INTRODUCTION**

**Visitors:**

Lauren and Larry Athay from Truffle Shots, said that having vacant businesses is still discussed by visitors in town. He suggested that retail needs to be experiential. He is beginning chocolate tasting classes. Mr. Winstead noted that this is something that the Board of Trade should consider for all retail businesses in Essex. A shuttle from the train to downtown was discussed for the Thomas the Train events. Ms. Malan feels that Kevin Dodd from Valley Railroad should come and discuss with the Commission how to do this. People are looking for additional things to do after an event like Thomas. Essex retailers could benefit from these activities.

**Commissioners:**

No additional comment.

Ms. Heiser did not have an additional report from the Board of Trade.

**REPORT FROM TOWN HALL/CONSULTANT/ZONING MATTERS**

Ms. Malan discussed her report. The Essex will be open soon. The Christmas Barn got ZBA approval. Work is still being done at Scotch Plain Tavern. Cannoli on the Run is expected to open May 18<sup>th</sup>. Olive Oyl’s will be reopening in its new location in early June. The old location will remain open with limited staff. A meeting with the new owners of Brewer’s will be scheduled by Ms. Malan to introduce them to the EDC. The Process Map was discussed. Please send comments to Ms. Malan. Ms. Malan discussed the Zoning Officer’s report. Boatworks will have a hearing to discuss their new restaurant application on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The Sanitarian and State have approved the revised plan for Essex Station.

Mr. Needleman discussed the new sidewalks from Ivoryton to Falls River. Lighting is also being considered. A public hearing will take place to inform the public. Ms. Peckinpaugh noted that some cross walks are faded. Mr. Needleman stated that they are monitored and painted if they are fading. Discussion was held regarding the email distributed regarding Valley Regional High School. Mr. Winstead requested that Dr. Levy or Mr. Riley update the Commission at the next meeting. Ms. Peckinpaugh will coordinate.

**COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**ACTION ITEMS**

None

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

No additional items.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly made and seconded the Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 4:40p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Commission Clerk