

NEWINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
NEWINGTON TOWN HALL
131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT
CONFERENCE ROOM L-101 LOWER LEVEL, TOWN HALL
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2013

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman James Marocchini
Commissioner David Marsden
Commissioner Gregory Polk
Commissioner Fernando Rosa
Commissioner Thomas Shields
Commissioner Paul Vessella
Commissioner Linda Woods (excused)
Commissioner Mark Mnich (absent)

Also present:

Economic Development Director
Andrew Brecher

II. MEETING MINUTES - December 5, 2012

Chairman Marocchini made one correction as to the Vice-Chairman nomination where it states to elect Thomas Shields as Vice-Chairman, it should state Commissioner Greg Polk as Vice-Chairman. Also, where stated nominating Gregory Polk as Secretary, it should state Thomas Shields as secretary of the Economic Development Commission. Chairman Marocchini stated that this correction has been made with the Town Clerk.

Commissioner Rosa made a motion to accept the December 5, 2012 minutes as corrected and Commissioner Marsden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Economic Development Director distributed the 2013 Economic Development Commission Meeting dates and also the revised listing of the present members of the commission.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Directory Signage for Constitution Square/Market Square

Director Brecher presented a proposal to the Town Manager for \$11,900.00 and with his research there appears to be funds available which will be presented to the Town Council on January 8, 2013 for their consideration on January 22, 2013. Director Brecher also conferred with the chief purchasing agent, Jeff Baron and he explained that there are four sign vendors servicing the town, one of whom is Bianca Signs and the town would prefer to purchase from Bianca Signs.

B. EDC DISTRICTS

Director Brecher reported that Gregg Breton (GIS) from the Town Planner's office is on paternity leave and upon his return will present the commission with revised, updated district maps for the commission.

Commissioner Vessella made a recommendation that a "letter of introduction" be prepared for members of the commission to present to businesses in their assigned districts.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Rose Lyons brought attention to snow storms and improving snow removal at Market Square and an A+ on the signage at Constitution Square.

Mady Kenny referred to the yellow board sign that is posted at Main and Market Square by the owner of Sophia's Restaurant and if this issue could be resolved..

VII. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

With reference to signage in town, Mr. Brecher noted that the Town planner has initiated an idea to put together a brochure to be presented as a handout to businesses in town with pictures of allowable signage, their fees and also fines for abusing the zoning laws on this issue. Mr. Brecher added that a website could also be developed as a good link for signage in Newington.

An update by Mr. Brecher regarding an application that has been presented to the State Economic Development Commission for brownfield remediation by the town planner for state funding in the amount of 2 million dollars will be closely followed. Also, there was a two day TOD workshop with Newington having a 12 member delegation in attendance. Prior to this meeting, Mr. Brecher attended a CROG meeting with local municipal leaders who would be affected by the high speed railway and busway projects.

Additionally, a low intensity grant has been offered and presented to the Town Council regarding alternative energy in small areas such as parking lots. Mr. Brecher also referred to businesses such as Sam's and Walmart now initiating the capability to create their own energy with solar panels.

Mr. Brecher will attend the 90th anniversary celebration on Friday, January 4, 2013 of the Keeny Manufacturing company.

VIII. REMARKS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Vessella reported that during the recent snowstorm on Market Square there was very little snow removal at the cross walks; all packed with ice. Chairman Marochinni agreed that they should be cleared for pedestrians and the handicapped patrons of businesses. Director Brecher took note and will report the results at the next meeting.

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Chairman Marocchini observed that the physicians' urgent care office at the former Krispy Kreme site is progressing and also Bone Fish will soon be open for business.

Director Brecher remarked that Firestone intends to submit an application to TPZ.

Commissioner Rosa encouraged a mass mailing be made to local businesses that provides valuable information to make it more enticing to network with the town, to bring the town together to create a bond between businesses and the town management. To this, Commissioner Polk added that applying this information to the town's web site would also be a valuable tool to be able to resource the economic status of Newington. Director Brecher agreed that the resources should be available to this commission and indeed, it would be a good link. To this, Chairman Marocchini remarked that he agrees with Commissioner Rosa and this is the time to expand Newington's "growth and progress"!

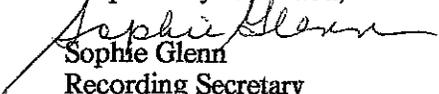
Commissioner Marsden referred to the town of Berlin and their Timberlin Golf Course outings which involves the local commercial Realtors, business owners and politicians and how Newington could do the same with its annual spring breakfast at the Newington golf course. Chairman Marocchini will make this an agenda item for the February meeting.

Commissioner Polk also announced that the building that houses the Black Rose restaurant is for sale.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Rosa made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Polk second the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,


Sophie Glenn
Recording Secretary