

NEWINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
NEWINGTON TOWN HALL  
131 CEDAR STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT  
CONFERENCE ROOM L-101, LOWER LEVEL, TOWN HALL  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2013

1. MEMBERS PRESENT

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

Also present, Economic Development Director  
Andrew Brecher

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - October 2, 2013

Let it be noted that Commissioner Mark Mnich was in attendance at the October 2, 2013 meeting. Then, Commissioner Vessella made a motion to approve the October 2, 2013 minutes and Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Rose Lyons congratulated the appointments of Commissioner James Marocchini to the Town Council and Commissioner Paul Vessella to the Board of Education.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Rosa congratulated Chairman Marocchini's appointment to the Town Council and Commissioner Vessella to the Board of Education.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Downtown Signage for Constitution Square/Market Square

Director Andrew Brecher reported that there has been enormous progress with an easement drafted and signed and then executed by the town which will be officially released to Biana Signs as early as next week. These signs will be erected one at a time and coordinated with the Engineering Department.

B. Gateway Signage

Commissioner Rosa suggested that in keeping with the uniformity of these signs, they should also be kept clean and well maintained, indicating that Newington is open for business!

Commissioner Marsden added that signs could be erected for the various civic clubs in Newington. Director Andrew Brecher agreed that medallion signs would be appropriate to note the various civic organizations in Newington. Commissioner Marsden then voiced concern regarding the "bandit" signs in town for selling homes, etc. Chairman Marocchini made reference to bring these issues to Art Hanke in the Building Department. Also, Director Andrew Brecher indicated that the TPZ is working on regulations for this problem.

#### VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Rose Lyons agreed that these rogue signs are a problem in Newington and that Art Hanke of the Building Department would be the one to contact for resolving this issue.

#### VIII. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Brecher reported that there is no update from the state on the former National Welding site.

Also, Best Market is open, having hired 160 employees and is very user friendly. Commissioner Woods agreed because she was searching for a certain product and received a lot of help.

Commissioner Polk added that the advertising boxes that are placed in the shopping aisles are hazardous even though Director Brecher noted that these are placed there as marketing opportunities for wholesalers and that in time, feedback will help them resolve this problem. Also, Director Brecher noted that you can leave customer feedback on their webs site or at customer service in the market.

Director Brecher added that Best Market is working on the rest of the plaza, having signed a new lease with the Post Office for 10 years.

Director Brecher announced that there is a new tenant at the Newington Business Park, J. Marketing Group which produces Jade Jeans, selling 10 million pairs of jeans a year, this location being the east coast distribution center, with 45-100 seasonal employees.

Aerospace, located on Lewis Street is expanding and more information will be made known this week.

DeFrino's Pizza will be relocated here from Berlin, Ct. to the Berlin Turnpike in Newington.

The Modern Tire suit is ongoing and have been judged eligible to receive reconsideration in their case.

Bone Fish is very busy and Director Brecher will confer with the Town Planner regarding parking and traffic issues.

Moe's Southwest Grille is coming to town and look forward to gaining site approval in the soon to be modified Mortenson's restaurant.

Also, Tunxis Grill is now open for business.

The former Cedar Crest Hospital project is still pending and will be monitored.

#### VIII. REMARKS BY COMMISSIONERS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION 3 NOVEMBER 6, 2013

Commissioner Polk reminded members that there will be a fund raiser sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce on November 15, 2013 at the Hawthorne Inn on the Berlin Turnpike and donations will be accepted for this event.

Commissioner Polk also announced that the Business Showcase will be held April 13, 2013 and Comedy Night on May 11, 2013 and the Car Show on June 20, 2013./

Commissioner Marsden announced that the Rotary Club is having its annual pre-Thanksgiving Food Drive this Saturday, November 9, 2013 at Best Market and Stop and Shop on Kitts Lane.

Commissioner Vessella will be exiting this commission for his new assignment on the Board of Education and expressed how much he enjoyed the bipartisan spirit expressed at these meetings and will miss this assignment.

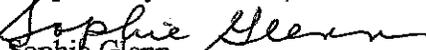
Commissioner Mnich also said, "It is with deep sorrow that I am tendering my resignation from the Newington Commission for Economic Development because I will be moving to Meriden in 2014. It has been my honor and privilege to serve with each and everyone of the members of this board. Thank you and God bless!"

Chairman Marocchini thanked everyone for their support as he begins his new assignment on the Town Council for which he received a huge round of applause. Director Brecher added that being the 'new guy on the block' - it took a good partnership with Chairman Marrochinni that made his job easier.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Marsden made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Rosa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sophie Glenn  
Recording Secretary