

NEWINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
NEWINGTON TOWN HALL
131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT
CONFERENCE ROOM L-101 LOWER LEVEL, TOWN HALL
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2015
7:00 pm.

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Richard Capuano
Commissioner Karen Faust
Commissioner Michael Fox
Commissioner Charlene Garcia (absent)
Commissioner David Marsden
Commissioner Greg Polk (absent)
Commissioner Pamela Raynock
Commissioner Fernando Rosa
Commissioner Clifford Stamm
Commissioner Ken St. Onge
Commissioner Linda Woods (absent)

PRESENT: Economic Development Director
Andrew Brecher

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- March 4, 2015

Commissioner Fox made a motion to accept the March 4, 2015 minutes. Commissioner Raynock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Rosa shared his vision of the Commission as one that focuses on an improved quality of life in Newington by way of increased economic activity, creation of jobs and maximization of commercial space. He urged all commissioners to be better informed and commented on the challenge of knowing more about projects while still keeping proprietary information private.

Further, he advocated the Commission take positions on issues when appropriate and "speak as one" when possible.

A discussion ensued regarding coordination and cooperation with other commissions, the advantages and disadvantages of communication through social media and the need for commissioners to clearly identify when speaking whether they are representing the positions of the Commission or their own personal opinions.

V. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Brecher reviewed the opening of the CTfastrak system and answered questions about its operations.

Director Brecher provided an update on activities associated with the Amara Project, including the application for text amendments before the Town Plan and Zoning Commission, a TPZ hearing on April 8, 2015 for their Special Exception application and TPZ consideration of their site plan application and request for an extension of the existing approvals.

Director Brecher also commented on the controversy surrounding the Connecticut General Assembly's HB6851, an Act Establishing the Connecticut Transit Development Authority, and explained the scope of activities typically carried out by development authorities.

In addition, Director Brecher noted that TPZ had not yet acted on a moratorium for high density housing within one half mile of the CTfastrak stations.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Holiday Event

There was no further discussion of the Holiday Event that will be held on Thursday, December 3, 2015.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Alan Paskewich expressed his opinion that there should be greater coordination between the EDC, TPZ and the Conservation Commission, of which he is a member. He also felt Facebook was not helpful to constructive discussion, that the EDC should examine international aspects of development for new ideas and that we have to be careful not to end up looking like Detroit.

Hal Whitney suggested commissioners should be available to assist the Economic Development Director when help is requested and that Facebook must be embraced to communicate effectively in today's world.

Rose Lyons commented that Facebook has become a good way to get people involved. She urged that the various commissions "get on the same page" and that more communication with the public is good—and will lead to more openness and transparency. She also noted several problems she had heard about regarding CTfastrak.

IX. REMARKS BY COMMISSIONERS

A. District Reports

Commissioners asked Director Brecher to look into producing individual maps by district that will include the names of more streets—to make it easier to understand the boundaries of each district.

Commissioners agreed to consider switching some districts after reviewing the more detailed maps.

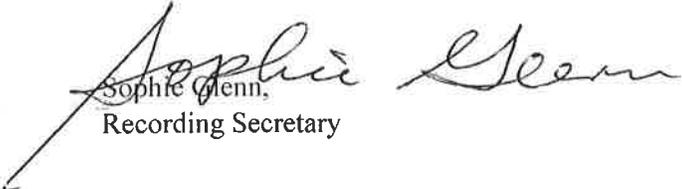
B. Chamber Report

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Fox made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Marsden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:


Sophie Glenn,
Recording Secretary