

NEWINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
NEWINGTON TOWN HALL
131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT
CONFERENCE ROOM L-101 LOWER LEVEL, TOWN HALL
WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2013

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

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

Economic Development Director
Andrew Brecher

II. MEETING MINUTES April 3, 2013

Commissioner Polk made a motion to accept the April 3, 2013 minutes. Commissioner Shields seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. GATEWAY SIGNAGE

Economic Development Director Brecher summarized the woeful nature of medallions appearing on Newington gateway signs with the suggestion of producing an inventory of the signs that do exist in order to improve them. Commissioner Rosa agreed, adding that a concrete plan should be developed to which Chairman Marochinni suggested a subcommittee be appointed at a future meeting. Commissioner Marcinczyk also suggested taking photographs that could be presented to the Town Council, and Commissioner Rosa emphasized the value of a sign as evoking a quality of life, here in Newington.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. BUSINESS BREAKFAST

Economic Development Director Brecher announced that all of the customized invitations were mailed today to bankers, including former Town Planner Ed Meehan's list of guests and government guests - legislatures, members of boards and commissions and responses will be made to Cindy in the Building Department

B. DOWNTOWN SIGNAGE FOR CONSTITUTION SQUARE/MARKET SQUARE

Economic Development Director Brecher reported that Bon Giovanni is performing the survey for easements. Commissioner Polk added that some of the concrete curbing in Constitution Square had suffered damage from the winter snow storms, along with some badly needed concrete repair behind Black Rose restaurant.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Chip Stamm distributed his presentation of Constitution Square roadways including registering it with Google Search engine with an emphasis on improving the Exit on Constance Leigh Drive. Chairman Marocchini thanked Mr. Stamm for his fine presentation.

Also, Rose Lyons then spoke agreeing with Mr. Stamm that Constitution Square's exit on Constance Leigh Drive needs improvement and she also praised the development of the Town Center, making it a more navigable area.

Development Director Brecher added that the town's IT department is trying to get the newly named street, "Mazzoccoli Way" on Google's search engine.

VII. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Development Director Brecher reported that the town is applying to CROGG for the development of senior affordable housing at possibly Kitts Lane, Willard Avenue or Fenn Road. To this, Commissioner Shields noted that there are now "micro space" housing developments on the market to conserve building space and is more affordable.

Director Brecher announced that Best Market's closing will be on May 6, 2013. Their representatives have been in Newington a number of times, meeting with the Building Department and Fire Marshall and they will be before the Town Planning Zoning Commission for plan modifications.

Director Brecher also noted that there is still no funding as of yet from the State for the request Newington has made for the National Welding site, and is still pending

Town Planner Craig Minor has met with CROG regarding the Newington Junction project, and market analysts consultants have been assigned to collect data at this site.

Director Brecher then drew attention to the Berlin Turnpike where there are several inquiries for potential projects. Also, Shuco has not yet been sold and the former Crest site is still on the market. There are eleven acres available at the corner of CCSU and Cedar Street.

VIII. REMARKS BY COMMISSIONERS

A. DISTRICT REPORTS

Chairman Marocchini reported that Bonefish Grille is moving forward toward completion.

B. CHAMBER REPORT

Commissioner Polk announced that the 67th Annual meeting of the Chamber will be held on May 30, 2013 at 6:30 P.M. at the Hartford Saengerbund, 719 North Mountain Road where awards will be presented to invited honorees. Commissioner Shields suggested that a letter of commendation should be presented to the Hartford Saengerbund society members for its commendable civic spirit.

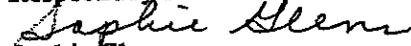
Commissioner Polk also announced that "Cruising Newington" will be held June 13, 2013 and the Chamber of Commerce's Comedy Night will be held May 11, 2013 at the Indian Hill Country Club.

Chairman Marocchini reported that the vacant Appleby's building on the Berlin Turnpike is still pending occupancy.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Shields made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Commissioner Marcinczyk seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.
The meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted


Sophie Glenn
Recording Secretary