

NEWINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
NEWINGTON TOWN HALL
131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT
CONFERENCE ROOM L-101 LOWER LEVEL, TOWN HALL
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2015
7:00 pm.

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

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

PRESENT: Economic Development Director
Andrew Brecher

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 1, 2015

Commissioner Marsden made a motion to accept the April 1, 2015 minutes. Commissioner Garcia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Vice Chairman Fox announced that Karen Faust had resigned from the Commission.

V. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Brecher reviewed the status of the National Welding demolition and abatement project, including planning the sampling that will be required to gain approval from EPA for a plan to cap the remaining contaminants in place. He also advised of a potential development for the four acres adjacent to the National Welding site owned by Richard Hayes.

Director Brecher announced that the Amara applications for Text Amendment, Special Exception and Time Extension had all been approved by the Town Plan and Zoning Commission. Amara's Site Plan application was expected to be considered by TPZ at its next meeting on May 13, 2015.

Director Brecher also advised that HB6851 had been reviewed by the Connecticut General Assembly's Office of Fiscal Analysis, Legislative Commissioners Office and Transportation Committee—and was moved to the House Calendar for scheduling a vote.

Director Brecher reviewed the just announced ridership numbers for CTfastrak, which at 14,000+ per day is significantly greater than the forecast of 11,200 per day at the end of the first year of service..

Director Brecher noted that AutoZone had opened on the Berlin Turnpike, as well as TJ's On Cedar, a new restaurant in the space formerly occupied by Vito's. Firestone on the Berlin Turnpike is nearing completion, T-Bowl announced they are in negotiations to sell their property, 36 Holly Drive is available for lease and the adjoining Grody property on Fenn Road (owned by the same people as 36 Holly Drive) has been leased to an environmental services firm. Best Market Plaza is close to announcing its first new tenant and two other spaces are in discussion.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Holiday Event

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

B. Town Center Parking, Snow Removal, Maintenance

A meeting will be scheduled to discuss these topics. Invitees will include the Town Manager, Police Chief, Highway Superintendent, Town Engineer, Representative from the Downtown Merchants, Commissioners Fox, Raynock and Stamm and Director Brecher.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Rose Lyons commented on the municipal parking lot and Market Square, and the lack of public input for those \$1.8 million projects due to disinterest. She also credited TPZ for vigorously challenging the Amara applications. In addition, she commented that the town hall renovation project is no further along than it was three years ago and needs a budget.

IX. REMARKS BY COMMISSIONERS

A. District Reports

Director Brecher distributed detailed maps of each district to the Commissioners in attendance.

Commissioner Capuano was assigned District 7, replacing Commissioner Faust.

B. Chamber Report

Commissioner Marsden advised that the Annual Meeting and Banquet would be held May 29, 2015 at Indian Hill Country Club. This will be a special celebration in honor of the Chamber's 70th anniversary and will feature a sit-down dinner instead of a buffet. Past presidents will receive recognition and the "Best Of" award winners will be announced.

Vice-Chairman Fox expressed his opinion that the Commission should have more input from the Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Merchants.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Garcia made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:



Sophie Glenh,

Recording Secretary