

NEWINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
NEWINGTON TOWN HALL  
131 CEDAR STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT  
CONFERENCE ROOM L-101 LOWER LEVEL, TOWN HALL  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2015  
7:00 pm.

#### I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Richard Capuano  
Commissioner Michael Fox  
Commissioner David Marsden  
Commissioner Pamela Raynock  
Commissioner Fernando Rosa  
Commissioner Clifford Stamm  
Commissioner Ken St. Onge  
Commissioner Linda Woods (excused)

ALSO PRESENT: Economic Development Director, Andrew Brecher

#### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 3, 2015

Commissioner Fox made a motion to accept the June 3, 2015 minutes. Commissioner St. Onge seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Rose Lyons questioned items on the EDC agenda. She also stated her opinion that the EVSE signs attached to Constitution Square signs looked tacky.

Stanley Sobieski suggested a list of vacant buildings be posted on the Town website. He also complained about Constitution Square signage.

#### IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Rosa announced that Commissioners Gregory Polk and Charlene Garcia had resigned.

Chairman Rosa also reviewed several recent newspaper articles on the topics of Transit-Oriented Development, new DECD and CEDAS programs and favorable reviews of the Sloppy Waffle and Rooster Company restaurants. Commissioner Capuano requested copies be distributed to all EDC Commissioners.

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

Director Brecher first noted that congratulations were in order to Commissioner Rosa, who has been named President and CEO of HEDCO (the Hartford Economic Development Corporation).

Director Brecher then provided a lengthy report covering activity over the Past three months. Items included the former Applebee's building, the Amara project, National Welding, TPZ High Density Housing Moratorium/TOD regulations, Best Market Plaza, the new electric vehicle charging station, Constance Leigh Drive improvements, Alumni Road, Caribbean Food Concepts, Tunxis Grille,

Wood-N-Tap, American Tool, 80 Progress Court, 115 Pane Road, former Mobil site on the Berlin Turnpike, T-Bowl/Ashley Furniture, Hartford Liederkrantz, 36 Holly Drive/Grody building, 2272 Berlin Turnpike [medical building], Firestone and the status of the Town Hall Renovation Project.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Holiday Event

Chairman Rosa reminded Commissioners that the event will be held on Thursday, December 3, 2015 at the Portuguese Club, 730 Mountain Road with food provided and a cash bar. He noted that the Town Manager and Department Heads will be attending. He also requested help identifying businesses that have been in town for at least 25 and 50 years and those businesses new to town in 2015. In addition, Chairman Rosa asked for nominations for "Business of the Year" and any specific projects worthy of special recognition.

The first of a series of press releases is anticipated to be distributed soon.

Commissioner St. Onge suggested planning now to sustain the momentum of the holiday event, perhaps creating a platform to communicate economic development items of interest to the community by means of social media.

### B. Town Center Parking, Snow Removal, Maintenance

A meeting will be scheduled to discuss these topics.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

## VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Stanley Sobieski stated his opinion that there should be no bump-outs on Constance Leigh Drive. Also, there should be outreach to the Alumni Road neighborhood to design a new plan. Small businesses are needed to keep taxes down. Newington needs to sell itself better. There should be a display in Town Hall promoting Newington to small businesses. Mr. Sobieski also offered his opinion that the main issue facing the Town Hall Renovation Project is cost.

Rose Lyons wondered aloud if the real cause of the delay in the Amara project was actually due to the DOT. She also stated her belief that opposition to the Alumni Road plan was rooted in people's fear of development. As far as the Town Hall Renovation Project, she suggested we need to get everyone together. Ms. Lyons also received confirmation that the Constance Leigh project is being managed without a building committee.

## IX. REMARKS BY COMMISSIONERS

### A. District Reports

Commissioner St. Onge commended Twin City Plaza on its improved appearance and Table Top Shop for bringing new life to that shopping center.

Commissioner Marsden noted that Fenn Road Plaza is doing very well, with only one vacancy.

#### B. Chamber Report

Commissioner Stamm reported the Downtown Business Association is wrestling with how to sustain itself in the future.

#### C. Other

Commissioner Raynock noted that the Town and State need to be more sensitive to people's income. She sees herself leaving Connecticut when she retires.

Commissioner Capuano requested that Holiday Event press releases also be emailed to all Commissioners.

Commissioner Marsden expressed his concurrence with not having bump-outs on Constance Leigh Drive. He also noted that parking at the Cedar Street Fastrak station is a growing problem, with more people parking illegally in the adjacent shopping center parking lot.

#### 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 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Sophie Glenn,  
Recording Secretary