

NEWINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
NEWINGTON TOWN HALL
131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT
CONFERENCE ROOM L-101 LOWER LEVEL TOWN HALL
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2012
7:00 P.M.

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman James Marocchini
Commissioner Gregory Polk
Commissioner Fernando Rosa
Commissioner Paul Vesella
Commissioner Linda Woods
Absent
Commissioner David Marsden
Commissioner Mark Mnich
Commissioner Thomas Shields

Town Planner, Craig M. Minor, AICP

Economic Development Director
Andrew Brecher

II. MEETING MINUTES - June 6, 2012

Commissioner Rosa made a motion to accept the June 6, 2012 minutes and Commissioner Vesella seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously..

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Rose Lyons spoke to the issue of who is responsible for the upkeep and grooming of Market Square, with summer's accumulation of weeds, etc. Commissioner Polk noted that the Public Works department is in charge of maintenance including snow plowing, etc.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Request to install solar panels in Newington Industrial Park

Town Planner, Craig Minor introduced Mr. Gary Preziosi, representing Northeast Mart Energy along with a memorandum dated September 5, 2012 directed to the Economic Development Commission which outlines the request to construct solar panels on the grounds of Schuco USA at 240 Pane Road in the Newington Industrial Park, but only after he had conferred with Andy Brecher, Economic Development Director, who reviewed the Newington Industrial Park Regulations and found solar panels can be a permitted use under Article II, Section 2-2B, Public Utility Buildings, structures and uses. Commissioner Rosa made a motion to approve this request and Commissioner Vesella seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. This request will now go before the TPZ.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. MARKET SQUARE STREETSCAPE

Chairman Marocchini will report back to this commission after the Downtown Revitalization Committee has its next meeting.

B. BUSINESS SIGNAGE FOR NEWINGTON CENTER

Town Planner, Craig Minor reported on the Newington Center signage with a comprehensive handout which included Bianca Signs, Incorporated quote estimates and graphics depicting the final layout of Constitution Square. Chairman Marocchini suggested that a sign be placed at the bottom of Route #175 indicating businesses and parking available, along with a "Constitution Square" Square sign at the main entrance. There will also be an entrance sign at Goldburger's on Main Street, and at the corner of Market Square and Steve's Place. These signs are of long lasting quality with gold leafed letters. Economic Development Director Andrew Brecher proposed that a script should be developed for each sign, highlighting the merchants in Constitution Plaza and Market Square, its shops AND parking availability.

Also providing valuable feedback were Richard Simons and Valerie French of the Downtown Business Association. Chairman Marocchini will meet with the Downtown Business Association to obtain approval of this signage and report back to this commission at its next meeting.

C. FOLLOW UP DISCUSSION OF NEWINGTON BUSINESS BREAKFAST

Economic Development Director Andy Brecher noted that the event was a success and suggested that future business breakfasts should feature a theme, such as manufacturing, insurance, banking, marketing, etc. making it an even more special occasion.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

See above.

VII. REMARKS BY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Marocchini reported that Volvo/Aero is advertising for job openings, and that the banner sign at the entrance to Market Square is proving to be effective with the announcement of activities in Newington such as the recent Bierfest at their Siegenbund property.

Commissioner Polk noted that our local Police Department has stepped up patrol on Main Street since the destruction of wall masonry and planters on Main Street. Commissioner Polk also announced that the Black Rose restaurant is open for business and will have its grand opening on the day of the Waterfall Festival.

Economic Development Director Andy Brecher reported that in his recent presentation to the town Council he would be seeking a grant to demolish and abate the asbestos at the welding site. The State will be announcing its next round of recipients in October. In the meantime, forty three developers have received colored copies and packages of information regarding this site, which would be developing office, technology, retail, etc. Mr. Brecher, along with Town Manager

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MEETING SEPTEMBER 5, 2012

Salamone, met with the president of CCSU today to discuss these issues.

Mr. Brecher also noted that the Newington busway junction will be discussed at a CROGG meeting next week.

Mr. Brecher added that the former Cedarcrest Hospital site has received no responses for redevelopment by the State of Connecticut as of this date.

Mr. Brecher commented that iron beams have been laid out at 86/90 Day Street to limit access as a safety issue.

Mr. Brecher announced that the proposed Farmington Bank in the center of Newington has final issues to be resolved before construction is begun.

Also, there is the possibility of another food chain being added to the Berlin Turnpike.

As for Northwood Plaza, or Lowery Place, Mr. Brecher reported that the owners are not interested in leasing this property, rather they would want to sell it and that they are current with the payment of their taxes, etc., and a further meeting will be held with them this month.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Rosa made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Polk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,


Sophie Glenn
Recording Secretary