

NEWINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

January 4, 2023

Vice-Chairman Dana Havens called the regular meeting of the Newington Economic Development Commission to order at 7: 20 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present

Vice-Chairman Dana Havens
Commissioner Jerilyn Nagel
Commissioner Chip Stamm
Commissioner Mari Beatrice

Commissioners Absent

Chairman Theresa Avey
Commissioner David Marsden

III. SETTING OF MEETING DATES FOR 2023

Erik Hinckley presented the meeting dates for 2023, with all dates the first Wednesday of the month with the exception of April which was changed due to a holiday. The following dates were approved on a motion by Commissioner Stamm, seconded by Commissioner Beatrice with three voting YEA and one Nay (Nagel)

February 1	March 1	April 12	May 3	June 7
July 5	August 2	Sept. 6	Oct.4	Nov. 1
Dec. 6	Jan. 3, 2024			

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Stamm moved to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2022 regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beatrice. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion, with four voting YEA.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Speakers limited to two minutes.)

Rose Lyons questioned if there was a certain amount of people who had to appear in person at a hybrid meeting out of the group.

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Erik Hinckley replied that no, but if your fourth member is on Zoom and there is a technical glitch and they are off, the meeting would have to be stopped because there would not be a quorum. There are time frames involved regarding getting the member back before the meeting is cancelled.

Rose also questioned why not much was done on Constitution Square regarding the planters during the summer. She stressed that the planters around town were maintained and beautiful but that those on Constitution Square seemed to be ignored and questioned why the town was not taking care of those as well. There had been some discussion when renovations had been done in that area as to what belonged to the town, and what was the responsibility of the shop owners. Rose questioned if this was in the purview of this Commission or if the responsibility belonged to Bill DeMaio of Parks and Recreation.

Vice-Chairman Havens indicated that this Commission had a set amount of money for the planters and that they were hoping to have businesses buy and take care of the planters. Rose stated that the planters were either left empty or if something was planted, it was not maintained. She indicated that she will bring this concern to Bill DeMaio along with the concern of the tall grasses that grow up and block the signs that say Entrance. Some of the sidewalks are also in need of repair, and some belong to the town, and others to the individual owners.

Erik Hinckley stated that the majority of them are owned by the town, but there is one stretch that is not town owned, but the town does the snow removal and would be responsible if someone tripped and fell.

VI. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT

None

VII. OLD BUSINESS

a. Beautification Committee

Vice-Chairman Havens reported that hopefully funding would be provided in the next budget so that this Commission could do some additional planning.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

At the last meeting Vice-Chairman Havens had indicated that she would be sending out information on banners and banner plans that would generate revenue. The e-mail was sent, but due to a computer glitch it never got transmitted. She has now provided a link to the information from the town in Massachusetts that does what she thinks would also benefit Newington and this could be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Speakers limited to two minutes.)

Gail Budrejko stated that Friday at 4:00 there is a ribbon cutting for the Tropical Smoothie on Fenn Road, and on the 16th, there is a ribbon cutting for Metro Mattress on the Berlin Turnpike, located in the vacant space next to Stew Leonard's. They now have two locations in town. She also reported that a developer came to the TPZ and got approval for a significant renovation to

the Keeney Manufacturing building on Main Street, a combination of light manufacturing and retail. They will keep the Data-Mail portion of the building but will separate the two buildings and are going to attempt to keep the frontage on Main Street more pedestrian friendly than presently.

Erik Hinckley indicated that the presentation to the TPZ went very well, and that the owners plan to start pulling permits this month to demolish the bridge that connects the two buildings and from there they will start doing some of the other piece meal work, so some progress will be seen.

X. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Stamm stated that there are a couple of problem areas in the street and the intersection of Miami and Flagler, on East Robbins. Initially when they put the road in there was plenty of room, but the curb is too far out into the road, and there now is no room for bicycles any more and then they backfilled and it's about two feet deep so there is no ten foot snow shelf, so the Town Engineer is going to bring that to the attention of District One because a new house has been constructed with a driveway and all of the curb, because it is sticking out so far, will be gone so that will have to be fixed when the curb is replaced, and hopefully the bank will be reduced and put the right of way for the bikes back. This is going towards McDonald's between Miami and Flagler. He stated that he just wanted to let the Commission know that it was looked at and the Engineer is aware.

XI. ADJOURN

Commissioner Stamm moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Beatrice. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Norine Addis

Recording Secretary