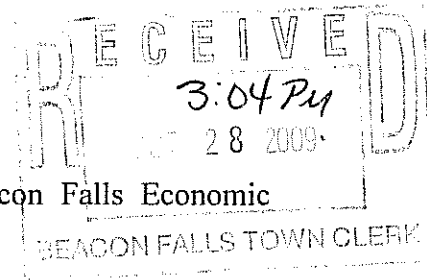


**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OCTOBER 26, 2009
MINUTES
(Draft Copy – Subject to Revision)**



A. SanAngelo called the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Beacon Falls Economic Development Commission to order at 7:35 P.M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: A. SanAngelo, J. Woodward, E. Korzon, J. Betkoski, K. Battaglino, J. Norton

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: M. Bronn.

OTHERS PRESENT: First Selectman S. Cable, Selectman D. Sorrentino, Selectman M. Krenesky

MINUTES

J. Betkoski made motion to approve the July 27, 2009 minutes as presented, 2nd by E. Korzon. All aye.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from First Selectman S. Cable with regard to the DEP Recreational Trails Grant. Discussion. The remaining grant funds will be used to finish pavers on North Main Street. Apron in front of Firehouse was also repaired. S. Cable noted problem was caused accidentally and will not happen again.

OLD BUSINESS

1. It was noted no plan has been submitted yet with regard to use of HUD monies. This money was first earmarked to help with purchase of Pinesbridge Commerce Park, but this not happen. Town was given the funds but they have not been expended at this time. DeCarlo & Doll has been filing required quarterly reports.
2. The Streetscape Enhancement Walkway project has been approved by both sets of engineers. The Commission is hopeful the project will go out to bid in 2010.
3. A. SanAngelo noted the dedication of the Town getting the former O&G Pond, now officially to be called Toby's Pond and Recreation Area was held on Thursday, October 22, 2009. A. SanAngelo pointed out the Town is very fortunate to have several parks, both passive and active ones located in our Town.
4. A. SanAngelo reported on a walk held on the River Greenway with representatives from the COG. The group walked at Volunteer Park, Veterans Park and then went to the O&G property through Cold Spring Road. Flyers were distributed with information about a Public Workshop to be held on Tuesday,

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November 17, 2009 at Naugatuck High School from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. Meeting will solicit ideas on helping to plan the Naugatuck River Greenway. Input for the proposed walkway from Thomaston to Seymour will be discussed.

5. S. Cable noted River Bend Park is also completed, with M. Krenesky adding many kayakers and fishermen are visiting the area. He noted Fish and Game is monitoring the activities and are fining \$500.00 for violations.
6. A. SanAngelo noted the former Ideal Mfg. Building is vacant and that Beacon Tool has gone out of business. There is also some vacant space in the Commerce Park. The Scott warehouse also has space available for rent. Commission agreed slow economy is catching up with everyone.
7. It was noted that Metcalf has been foreclosed on by the federal government, with S. Cable adding trucks are allowed to come and go, but cannot do any work.
8. E. Korzon asked why the Pinesbridge Commerce Park sign is not lit, adding those lights should be on some type of timer. S. Cable said she did not know about this and would check with Public Works on this. Clerk will check to see if she did send correspondence on this to the First Selectman.
9. The beaver problem is back. Discussion. Question asked if Goldenrod owns that pond, with E. Korzon noting it is costing the Town money to keep this problem under control, adding the dam is too close to the road which does not allow enough space to engineer anything.
10. Commission discussed its earlier suggestions on how to use the HUD monies. Ideas include: extend the tree line, replace the current damaged guardrails with something more aesthetic, and to beautify the right side of the road.
11. There is no update on status of the corner house at entrance to Commerce Park.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Commission discussed the recent fires on Main Street. A. SanAngelo added the Beacon Falls Bakery and Deli wants to get back in business. The fire is under investigation and the insurance settlement has to get resolved.
2. Commission complimented the Lions Club for doing a great job with this year's Duck Race. It was noted number of ducks sold was less than previous years. The Parade of Ducks and Scavenger also seemed to be well received. The Economic Development Commission used some of its funds to pay for prizes to be awarded to favorite ducks and winners of the scavenger hunt. Commission wants to continue to support this event as a Community event. A. SanAngelo noted NEJ contributed \$1,000 to help offset expenses of the Duck Race.
3. Commission agreed the new recreation area (Toby's Pond) will be a nice spot in the Town.
4. S. Cable suggested the Economic Development Commission invite the Beacon Falls Merchants Association and the Citizens for Tomorrow's Downtown to meet with the Commission to discuss how everyone can work together to improve the economic development of the Downtown. This joint meeting would be a good idea to discuss everyone's mission and move forward. E. Korzon thought a

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meeting with the Citizens for Tomorrow's Downtown was to have been scheduled. **J. Betkoski made motion to invite the leaders of Beacon Falls Merchants Association and the Citizens for Tomorrow's Downtown to a meeting with the Economic Development Commission., 2nd by K. Battaglino.** Discussion. Commission agrees that the Citizens for Tomorrow's Downtown have seem to have lost its enthusiasm. J. Woodward, who serves as that organization's Treasurer noted there is approximately \$10,000 in a bank account, noted the organization always had plans to use that money to purchase extra items such as park benches, for one of the Town's parks. After discussion, the Commission agreed to cancel its November 28, 2009 Regular Monthly Meeting and schedule the Joint Meeting for Monday, November 30, 2009 at 7:30 P.M. in the Town Hall Conference Room. **Vote then taken on the motion. All voted aye.** Clerk will compose an invitation to send to the Beacon Falls Merchants Organization, Bob Bradley and to the Citizens for Tomorrow's Downtown, Rick Cherhoniak. S. Cable noted that all Towns want to promote their economic development and Beacon Falls is no exception. Clerk will try to find membership roster of the Citizen's Group as there are no minutes, etc. filed anywhere in the Town Hall, since the Group was organized as an private ad hoc committee, with no 501 (c) (3) status ever received. Question is whether or not there should be only one group with the possibility of combining the two groups. It was noted also that it is a good idea to include regular citizens in the group as well as business owners. Items for discussion at the November 30, 2009 meeting might include: (1) what is the purpose of both organizations and do we need both organizations, (2) how can the Economic Development Commission help promote the Downtown Businesses. Some type of plan of action should be developed. If both organizations might agree to combine into one group, then another meeting should be held to decide how this would happen and how the funds would be utilized.

5. It was noted the Beacon Falls Merchants Assoc. would like to buy lights or banners for the Downtown.
6. J. Betkoski presented a report (dated 8/5 09) he had received from J. Maloney with regard to Beacon Falls funds in the Main Street Development fund. Questions asked what strings are attached to accessing the \$26,000 available to Beacon Falls and if there are any limitations as to how this money can be spent. S. Cable added the Valley Council of Governments should get involved with this also and take the lead in pursuing this, as Valley Towns do have monies still available. J. Betkoski noted that this \$26,000 is from the second round of funding, with some monies still available from the original fund. It was noted that it has been some time since the Main Street Development Organization has had a formal meeting, with S. Cable adding there have been many changes in leadership since its formation.

GRANT NEWS/UPDATES

28
3 2009

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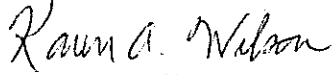
None at this time.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Clerk's bill was approved for payment.

With no other business, **J. Betkoski made motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 P.M. 2nd by E. Korzon. All aye.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Karen A. Wilson, Clerk of the Economic Development Commission
Meeting – October 26, 2009