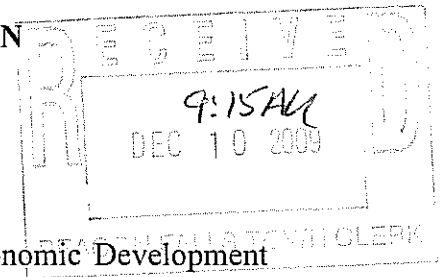


**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
SPECIAL MONTHLY MEETING
NOVEMBER 30, 2009
MINUTES
(Draft Copy – Subject to Revision)**



A. SanAngelo called the Special Meeting of the Beacon Falls Economic Development Commission to order at 7:40 P.M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: A. SanAngelo, J. Woodward, E. Korzon, J. Betkoski, M. Bronn.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: K. Battaglino, J. Norton.

OTHERS PRESENT: First Selectman S. Cable, Selectman D. Sorrentino, Selectman M. Krenesky, W. Purcell (CEO Valley Chamber), E. Falzone, S. Falzone, R. Bradley (Beacon Falls Merchants), R. Cherhoniak (Citizens for Tomorrow's Downtown), C. Lee, P. Betkoski.

A. SanAngelo noted this Special Meeting was called to discuss the Citizens for Tomorrow's Downtown and the Beacon Falls Merchants Association organizations and their roles working with the Economic Development Commission to promote Town businesses and continue with Main Street Revitalization.

R. Cherhoniak noted Citizens for Tomorrow's Downtown has been inactive for the last three (3) to four (4) years, adding there is money still in its account. He noted he has been chair since the organization started and asked if it was time to go with a more active group. R. Bradley, Beacon Falls Merchants noted his group is trying to promote shopping locally by urging people to support local businesses. He noted the organization is not a 501 (c) (3), but might pursue that avenue. He stressed the BF Merchants is not asking the Citizens for Tomorrow's Downtown for its funds, nor does it want to take control. He noted the goal is to promote downtown, whereas the Citizens look to improve the aesthetics of the Downtown.

S. Cable would like to see the Citizens, Beacon Falls Merchants and the Economic Development Commission each come up with its individual mission and how these missions can coordinate with the Town's Economic Development Commission in its efforts to promote Economic Development in the Town.

E. Korzon noted he was one of the founders of the Citizens for Tomorrow's Downtown, noting the group had worked to build Volunteer Park, remove the Main Street guardrails. He felt the group has run its course and its mission was accomplished.

M. Krenesky felt it is important to allow people from the original Citizens group to have a voice that makes everyone included. He noted a long range Conservation Plan was put into place and asked if this plan still merits going forward. He asked what should Main Street look like and what are the long-range goals toward that end.

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A. SanAngelo added the question was how to make Main Street more economically feasible and how could an eight (8) lane highway be changed to make things more viable. He noted Consultants who originally worked on that plan are still available to the Town if changes or revisions need to be made. S. Cable noted a new Plan of Conservation and Development is being worked on. A. SanAngelo suggested John Monroe of the States Rivers and Trails might be a good resource.

R. Cherhoniak asked if the Beacon Falls Merchants could be that voice, with A. SanAngelo adding the Citizens group is still needed and wondered if they might consider incorporating with the Beacon Falls Merchants.

R. Bradley felt the two (2) groups compliment each other, adding one group has focused on the aesthetics of Main Street, spending monies to beautify downtown, while the other group's goal is to drive businesses to Town and to encourage people to do business in Beacon Falls. He would like to see the brick walkway extended to the other side of Main Street and possibility putting in new streetlights.

J. Woodward, Treasurer of the Citizens for Tomorrow's Downtown and member of the EDC, reported there is \$9,794.03 in its bank account with Naugatuck Savings Bank. He noted comments were made that the Citizens group has been inactive but pointed out in the last few years, the Citizens have provided seed money for various projects, for example: giving \$1,000 to the Beacon Falls Merchants Association to get started, spent \$4,000 to purchase ducks for the Duck Parade event, and also purchased an ice skating rink and lights for Depot Street Bridge. He also noted that Christmas ball ornaments were purchased.

Brief discussion on the ornaments. R. Bradley noted he still has some of them and will sell them at the Beacon Falls Pharmacy. Discussion on how to distribute any monies from the sale.

R. Cherhoniak said he would like to see a meeting scheduled between all three (3) groups but is concerned that there might not be anything specific to talk about. S. Cable said it is important to utilize both groups working with the EDC, because both organizations are interested in the economic development of the Town.

All agreed the Citizens group needs some new life and could possibly attract new members. R. Cherhoniak asked if there is still a need for the Citizens group, with S. Cable stressing the EDC has to take a leadership role in this, adding there are many new seniors who have moved into the Town and they have some great experience and talent and could be of assistance, adding this is a beautiful opportunity to reach out to these people.

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A. SanAngelo felt the Citizens leadership role needs to be established, adding the Citizens Group's mission was for a physical change to the Downtown while the Beacon Falls Merchants mission is to get the message across to shop locally.

R. Cherhoniak suggested having a meeting in January, inviting people to attend to discuss the future of the Citizens group, suggesting there might be someone else who might want to lead the group. J. Betkoski said the EDC should take a proactive role to coordinate a joint meeting.

R. Bradley suggested having a planning session to set goals, suggesting pursuing people to attend and participate in local events to bring in more to shop locally, adding it is important to keep repeating the message.

W. Purcell, CEO of the Valley Chamber said it is important to work with the Chamber, adding that R. Bradley has recently been added to the Board of Directors of the Chamber and can serve as a voice for Beacon Falls businesses. He noted people have discovered Beacon Falls and the Valley Chamber will support the Beacon Falls Merchants. He said it is important to reach out to new citizens via several means of communications. He noted that not only would Beacon Falls businesses benefit but this would reach out to other Valley Communities.

Suggestion made to include a flyer with tax bills with Beacon Falls business information. The problem seems to be a lack of a way to utilize one central form of reaching out to people. R. Cherhoniak said advertising in the Citizens News seems to get the best return on money spent. The goal is to get the word out about the proposed March meeting.

S. Cable suggested putting together an agenda of what the groups want to accomplish, using their mission statements to have something to present at the proposed March meeting. S. Cable also suggested BOS have its own meeting to dole out various assignments for each of the three (3) groups.

Suggestion made to get involved in the May 8, 2010 Kayak and Canoe Race, by perhaps doing more to showcase our Town. Matthies Park as a positive asset was noted. R. Bradley suggested extending an invitation to Bethany to join us as well.

S. Cable again stressed the importance of getting the word out, adding that continuing to use the current leadership is a good constant and it is a great opportunity to welcome a new generation and new residents to the Community. A. SanAngelo suggested putting together some type of flyer. Tentative meeting could be scheduled in late January with the Citizens for Tomorrow's Downtown group. R. Cherhoniak is trying to compile a mailing list.

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A. SanAngelo called the Special Monthly Meeting of the Beacon Falls Economic Development Commission to order at 8:35 P.M.

MINUTES

J. Betkoski made motion to approve the October 26, 2009 minutes as presented, 2nd by J. Woodward. All aye with an abstention by M. Bronn.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Information received from Take Pride in America with regard to steward ness of public lands asking for an outstanding volunteer.
2. Review of P. Burns report.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The State still has to give final approval for the Streetscape Enhancement Project.
2. \$26,200 was received from Main Street Development Corporation.
3. The Board of Selectmen is still looking how to spend the \$95,000 HUD money. Suggestions include: tree planting at Pinesbridge Commerce Park, addressing the beaver problem and doing something about the guardrail situation. These monies have to be used for the Pinesbridge Commerce Park. Commission does not think there is a need to purchase any land in the Commerce Park, and agree the Park should be more aesthetically pleasing. One thing to address is to control the weed growth. The area where the current planting ends should be cleaned up, making the area easier to monitor. It was noted that P. Burns has not looked at the area with J. Tate. E. Korzon also suggested cleaning out the mess around the pond and that an electrician should take a look at the signage lighting. He also noted the curbing is torn up with only rubble left.

NEW BUSINESS

1. S. Cable, D. Sorrentino and A. SanAngelo attended a Greenway Meeting held at Naugatuck High School on November 17, 2009. A. SanAngelo said he was very impressed with the New York designer who had some great ideas. Another meeting will be held in the Spring.
2. A. SanAngelo noted the Knapp Container building is beginning to look like a blight area. As a gateway into the Town, the area should look more presentable. It was suggested sending a copy of the Blight Ordinance to Knapp Container. It

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was also noted a tractor trailer has been parked on the Grange property for some time.

3. A. SanAngelo noted Mario wants to rent the building recently damaged by fire.
4. S. Cable noted there is a building available on the corner of Main Street.
5. It was noted Dr. Dey did purchase land in the Commerce Park. Commission noted the Commuter Lot on Main Street can only be used for Municipal purposes.
6. S. Cable noted Town has taken over the former Peter Paul property located on Railroad Avenue. She also noted there is another property on Railroad Avenue owned by Watkins which might be turned over to the Town in lieu of back taxes.. She would like to ask Brownfields to take a look at the property.
7. S. Cable noted two (2) bids were received to purchase the Grange Building.
8. Because both bids were very low, purchase will be put out for bid again.

GRANT NEWS/UPDATES

None at this time.

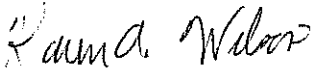
PAYMENT OF BILLS

Clerk's bill was approved for payment.

M. Krenesky briefly mentioned the Parks and Trails Programs, which is being considered as a joint venture of the Rotary Club and the Boy Scouts. A. SanAngelo suggested John Monroe who works for Parks and Trails would be an excellent resource.

With no other business, **J. Betkoski made motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 P.M. 2nd by E. Korzon. All aye.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Karen A. Wilson, Clerk of the Economic Development Commission
Special Meeting – November 30, 2009

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