

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
JUNE 25, 2012
MINUTES
(Draft Copy – Subject to Revision)**

Anthony SanAngelo, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission called the monthly meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioners: A. SanAngelo, C. Pusateri, R. Bradley, E. Korzon, J. Rodorigo and D. Sorrentino.

ABSENT: J. Betkoski.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Due to lack of a quorum in May, no Minutes were presented.

J. Rodorigo made motion to accept the April 2012 minutes as presented, 2nd by E. Korzon. All voted aye.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No public comments.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter received from the First Selectman that no Board, Commission or Committee member can contact any Town Consultant without prior approval from the First Selectman. It was noted that this would include discussions with Consultant Peter Burns of DeCarlo & Doll.

BEACON FALLS MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION

- R. Bradley noted the Association had not officially met since the May 5th Duck/Canoe/Kayak race, but from all accounts the event was very successful with the organizations exceeding their profit expectations. Next year's event will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2013.
- The Fire Department was successful in the sale of beer; the first time this was part of the event.
- The Lions Club and Lioness also did well.
- R. Bradley noted there was a lot of positive publicity including an article in Connecticut Magazine which brought in a lot of out of Town interest.
- All agreed it was a good idea to combine the duck race with the canoe/kayak race.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Streetscape Enhancement Project A. SanAngelo showed the Commission a large book with regard to the project. Discussion on status of project. It was noted trees have been planted and lighting is in place. Town will be responsible for watering those trees and keeping the area maintained on a regular basis. Discussion of placing of park benches in the area. A. SanAngelo noted a representative of the Katharine Matthies Foundation felt there is no place to put the park benches. (Town has applied to the Matthies Foundation for park benches, trash receptacles and bicycle racks for the enhancement project). It was noted that no additional work should be done until the State has signed off on the project, with D. Sorrentino noting the State would only check on things which have been documented.
 - Discussion of a crosswalk at Route 42.
 - Citizens for Tomorrow's Downtown have suggested putting some type of little bracket on the new streetscape light poles that would hold a small flag. R. Bradley had concerns about putting holes into the poles and causing water damage.
2. Discussion of plans submitted by Joe Peppitone back in 2010, with regard to signage. Commission would also like to see some type of unified signage on Old Turnpike Road listing the various businesses on that road. D. Sorrentino noted it is not that easy to put up a sign as certain regulations have to be met, including size, reflecting abilities and site lines. A. SanAngelo added that Jim Tate would probably be willing to help with this. Committee would like to pursue this further, as well as signage to the entrances to Beacon Falls at exits 24 and 23. Commission will send a letter to the Board of Selectmen asking them to contact the DOT for assistance and guidance. Email will also be sent to 1st Selectman G. Smith to include the color copies of J. Peppitone's presentation.
3. A. SanAngelo told Commissioners about EDC literature in the Assessor's vault that was compiled in 1992. Members agreed this could be updated using today's technology. Distribution would be earmarked for commercial realtors, new Town residents and others.
4. R. Bradley noted he is still working with the Welcome New Neighbor Program, adding that the 1st Selectman has been including a welcome letter to be included with other information which is then mailed to new residents in a welcome package. Postage for mailing has been supplied by the Town.
5. J. Rodorigo reported he has been working on the newsletter to go out in July. He is also working on a brochure for the Town, with all photos and copy done and a graphic designer will be doing some additional work on it. Discussion on what to include in the brochure; the Town is a 'sportsmen's destination', there is hiking, biking and fishing available. He noted State Representative L. Greene is working with the DOT and DECD on having signs placed off the highway to indicate where and what activities can be found in Beacon Falls. This brochure will also be placed in the Connecticut Conventions & Visitors kiosks. It is a good idea that people who are coming into Town will know where to go and what activities are available. Suggestions made to go even further with this idea such as including GPS coordinates. Commissioners felt it is important to address the 25 to 40 year

olds as they are very tech savvy and use Ipads and facebook, noting the digital world is amazing! R. Bradley suggested the Town create its own facebook page as an avenue to discuss the various activities that a person can take advantage of in Beacon Falls, adding the facebook page would also be a duplicate of the brochure. Suggestion given to contact Woodland High School to see if a student might be able to help us out via their Community Service requirements. R. Bradley said he would contact principal Arnold Frank about this. It was noted that a facebook page needs to be created and it also has to be maintained. K. Wilson will check with 1st Selectman and then the Town's tech person to see if each individual EDC member can get their own Town email addresses and also a business card for each. It was also suggested to contact the Town's current webmaster E. Groth about some assistance with a facebook page.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion of the Kogul business currently in the Bronson Building and its business dealing with radio activity issues. They are coming up with new ideas and are planning to go with geo-thermal in the residential market. It was noted they have recently purchased the former Not Just Trucking building. It is a business that is growing rapidly and they are happy being in Beacon Falls.
2. A. SanAngelo noted the Cooper Building is up for sale, with NEJ currently using a large portion of it.
3. R. Bradley noted he has been in touch with a dental office suggesting there is available medical space available in Dr. Dey's former location.
4. J. Rodorigo noted he had met with John Zaffos, who is host of the Haunted Collector on the SciFi Channel (Wednesday Nights), is interested in relocating to Beacon Falls from Stratford. He collects various artifacts and houses them in a museum to which he invites various groups to talk about the artifacts. He is a paranormal investigator (like Ed & Lorraine Warren). Commission suggested that this business (some production) might be eligible for Enterprise Corridor Zone benefits. J. Rodorigo showed him space in the Bronson building and he seemed very interested in it. This would be wonderful advertising for the Town.
5. S. Kersten is also interested in bringing a Farmer's Market to Beacon Falls. It was noted he would not be directly involved. Discussion on various locations for the market. Someone also mentioned it might be a good idea to get someone to sell fresh seafood.
6. A. SanAngelo noted that on September 23, 2012, the Town might be getting some visitors from Washington D.C. with regard to the walkway from Thomaston to Derby. He noted that Beacon Falls had the first and only handicapped access to the Naugatuck River. It was suggested that Town do some sprucing up at Volunteer Park. It was noted that Senator Lieberman is working to get this area designated as a National Heritage Area.
7. A free raffle is being conducted by the Beacon Falls Merchants Association.

CONTINUATION OF OLD BUSINESS

1. E. Korzon showed drawings brought to him by D. Sorrentino with regard to parking on Main Street (plans were done in 2010). D. Sorrentino noted any plans have to go the DOT even though the Town owns the road. Starting at Route 42, diagonal parking could go all the way up to Gabe's. This would eliminate truck parking. Suggestion made to just paint in the lines like others have done. Suggestion made that when heading south into Town, there be a right turn only sign, with the left lane being a through lane. It was noted there are poor site lines. There could also be some no parking in some parts. Areas could be grassed up where you do not want parking. E. Korzon noted that nothing done has helped businesses. Discussion continued on angled, diagonal and parallel parking. The Commission agreed to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen asking to meet with them at its next July 23, 2012 monthly meeting to discuss the parking on Main Street. The Police and Fire Department, as well as Representative Len Greene should be invited to attend as well.
2. E. Korzon reported that there are no site lines anymore on Lancaster Drive, adding this is poor advertising for the Town's Commerce Park. He noted that weeds are growing up and over the curb. Commission noted he is a tenant in the Commerce Park and has the right to make sure the area is well maintained. Commission will send a letter to the First Selectman and Public Works asking them to maintain the Lancaster Drive area, because the loss of a site line has created a hazard, is unsightly and is a liability hazard. People cannot see when making a turn. It was agreed to include the maintaining of the area off of Depot Street Bridge as you cannot see traffic when wanting to turn.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Current Commission Chairman A. SanAngelo told the members he had decided not to seek re-election as Chairman but would still like to stay on the Commission.

R. Bradley made motion to nominate Jeremy Rodorigo to serve as Chairman of the Economic Development Commission, 2nd by C. Pusateri. After brief discussion, four (4) voted aye to the motion. Motion passed.

D. Sorrentino made motion to nominate John (Jack) Betkoski to serve as Vice-Chairman of the Commission, 2nd by E. Korzon. All voted aye.

J. Rodorigo made motion to nominate C. Pusateri to serve as Treasurer of the Commission, 2nd by D. Sorrentino. All voted aye.

A. SanAngelo said he would help newly elected Chairman J. Rodorigo in any way he could. He then thanked everyone for all of their support and assistance to him over the years.

E. Korzon made motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 P.M. 2nd by R. Bradley.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Wilson, Clerk for the Economic Development Commission – Meeting 6/25/12