

**Town of Beacon Falls  
Economic Development Commission**

**July 23, 2012**

EDC Chairman Jeremy Rodorigo called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:34pm.

Commissioners present: E Korzon, R Bradley, D Sorrentino, A SanAngelo, Clare Pusateri.

Absent: J Betkoski

Also attending: 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Gerard Smith, Selectman Dave Amico, Town Librarian Sue Dowdell.

June's Minutes were accepted by all.

Correspondence:

Katherine Matthies Grants – Denied funds for the printing of EDC Brochures.

Approved \$2400 for trash receptacles for the Walkway.

Citizens for Tomorrow's Downtown to pay for benches and if needed matching flag holders on light posts.

No comments from the public at this time.

Merchants Association/ Bob Bradley – Adding Voter Registration forms to the New Neighbor packets.

Discussion continued regarding the Walkway. Are the Street lights as well as accent lights needed? It seems distracting and since the streetlights are on across the street, we can try having them turned off by CL&P. Do we close the walkway during the winter months? People will probably not be able to walk there if snow is plowed on it. If the winter is mild as in 2012, perhaps townspeople can take advantage of it. Plows should turn their blades so that snow is directed towards the median to be helpful for the merchants along Main St.

Website: Questions arose regarding a Facebook page to answer questions. Ed Roth is the current webmaster. Gerry to check out liability and how many email addresses are available so that commissioners can have access and connect with prospects. Sports and Recreation is an area we would like to highlight on the website. Perhaps we can link to YouTube. Sue Dowdell suggested using the Library Calendar to promote events.

J Rodorigo's friends that just filmed a TV segment recently will help in filming a Beacon Falls commercial. Randy Delinger is the producer.

Signage –

Commissioners revisited the possible large sign and change the main design to show the town's seal. Merchants would be asked to contribute to be listed. Right now there is a hodgepodge of signs near and on Old Turnpike Road placed illegally. This would help to resolve that issue.

Ed Korzon thanked the Selectmen for getting to clearing out brush for a better site line on Lancaster Drive. Could it be scheduled to be done periodically? First Selectman Smith commented that our equipment needs updating. Manpower is also needed to cover the many Beacon Falls streets.

Bob from Bruit Baskets Unlimited sent congrats on how great Main St looks.

J Rodorigo met with D Amico regarding the angled parking on Main St. There is not enough space to accommodate it.

First Selectman G Smith asked if we thought signage was needed for the Walkway. There is a short time left to get the info to the state. The commission determined it was not necessary.

J Rodorigo reported that the first Farmer's Market took place and in spite of the threat of rain there was a decent public turnout near the Firehouse. Vendors were pleased and there should be more coming next week. He also noted that there were no Health Dept. regulations as long as no prepared foods were being sold. Fridays from 3-6pm

A SanAngelo wondered if we might be more successful with Grants if we used a Grant Writer. G Smith said he has used Lisa Lowe and in that particular case she got a percent of what she captured for the town. Paying a Grant Writer and not knowing if you will get the award may not be wise.

Brownfields: the Watkins property on Rail Road Ave will not be transferred to the town as Brownfield funds are not guaranteed. This is also the dilemma for the IDEAL property – the state does not approve funds until the sale is made and the new owner applies.

Jeremy will look into a phone book for Beacon Falls as there is one circulating in Chesire and Prospect. Most agree people refer to the internet these days.

Sue Dowdell mentioned that we have a book producer in town – Move Books by Eileen Robinson. She concentrates on Middle grade books and the most recent is the Map Makers Son. It was mentioned that we have authors in town: Annette Boyce – college????/ and Mary Donnarumma Sharnick – Thirst.

It was noted that the new commercial building on Old Turnpike Rd is much more pleasant than the run down building that was there. Mangone? Is the owner?

C Pusateri asked G Smith if there is an update on the Haynes property that is split between Seymour and Beacon Falls. Haynes is still planning on developing the area but will need to get an investment of \$7+ million to extend the road up to Rt 42. Haynes is planning to get an addendum from the state to extend. They have the vision but need an investment of millions of dollars to get it done. It would still be a mixed development of light industrial, retail and housing.

R Bradley added that Bill Purcell, Greater Valley Chamber would be speaking at our next EDC meeting in August.

A motion was made to adjourn by Ed Korzon and seconded by Domenic Sorrentino at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Clare T. Pusateri