

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
MARCH 25, 2013
MINUTES
(Draft Copy – Subject to Revision)**

Jeremy Rodorigo, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission called the monthly meeting to order at 7:31 P.M.

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

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Dowdell, Michael Krenesky.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

D. Sorrentino made motion to accept the February 25, 2013 Minutes as presented, 2nd by J. Betkoski. All aye.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

1. Bill Giglio, 274 Bethany Road, noted to the Commission that it appears the new owners of the Beacon Falls Market are having some trouble and he was appealing to the EDC Commission to see if there was anything it could do to help this business out so they could remain in Town. He asked if something like ‘Americare Cares’ might be able to help out. R. Bradley noted he had spoken to the owners many times and suggested they try advertising and maybe promote some type of re-opening specials. Suggestion made that the organization SCORE might be able to give some suggestions. Everyone agreed that publicity is needed. S. Dowdell noted the Library staff is working on Media Marketing and they would be having some instruction in how to do this.

2. Susan Dowdell, 32 Wolfe Avenue, noted the Library is planning a ‘Book a Librarian’ Program, adding the Library’s Five (5) Year Plan would like to target older adults, entrepreneurs, the un-employed and the under-employed. She added the Library is in the process of applying for funding to update their laptops to Windows 8.

3. Michael Krenesky, noted a photograph he had submitted to the Valley Community Foundation made the back cover of its 2012 Annual Report. He also noted the Annual Duck and Kayak Race will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2013. (“May the 4th be with You”). R. Bradley noted the event is looking for vendors, with interested persons to email Sue Mis.

Discussion on DOT’s issue with re-opening the gate at the end of Cold Spring Road as they are concerned about safety and who would maintain the area, since it is next to the railroad tracks. R. Bradley noted this piece of land had been deeded to the Town in 1880 so he believes the Town owns that road. The area will be opened for the upcoming Duck Race so that participants can safely get to where they need to go. With this area being closed, people are forced to go through Naugatuck. It was noted that no one could recall an incident ever occurring here. The closure prevents fishermen from getting in, and it was also noted that activities such as horseback riding, snowmobiling, hunting and ice climbing are also hindered. Question asked if the Town could take legal action

against the DOT? It was noted that the CNVCOG is also supporting the Town in its quest to have the area re-opened. J. Betkoski said he would personally send a letter to the Governor about this situation. M. Krenesky noted he has done the preliminary paperwork to put High Rock State Park on the Historic Register.

4. R. Bradley noted the Citizens News will be a sponsor for the upcoming Duck Race and they will provide three (3) free ¼ color page ads.
5. M. Krenesky noted the Historical Society is sponsoring a Comedy Antiques Appraisal on May 17, 2013 at Woodland Regional High School from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. A Program Booklet is currently being put together.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence at this time.

BEACON FALLS MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION

Refer to above comments from the Public for comments about the upcoming Annual Duck and Kayak Race.

OLD BUSINESS

1. J. Rodorigo noted he had requested \$10,000 for the EDC Budget to be used for marketing the Town to attract new business. He would like to see the Commission spend time in the coming year working on this marketing in order to explain the need for the additional budget funding. A. SanAngelo suggested the best way to market the Town is to do it electronically. He also suggested having the members attend various workshops as well as the CERT Annual Convention. He feels the Town needs a presence at the State level. C. Pusateri felt people should be knowledgeable about what is going on. She also suggested having an EDC table at the Duck Race, with discussion on what to put on that table.
2. Discussion of the upcoming EDC Breakfast. Location, date and time is still being determined. Commission would like to see it held at one of the local businesses.
3. Question asked if the Town had picked up the old furnace donated by Kolga. Clerk will check with First Selectman about this.
4. NEJ is using space at the former Ideal building.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Suggestion made to try to get some funding for new signage to announce businesses in Town. It was noted Joe Pepitone had given a proposal quite some time ago. Katharine Matthies grant is due on May 1, 2013. A sign should be placed on Old Turnpike Road listing the businesses located at this location.
2. Question asked if anyone knows George Meder's plans for his building located on Old Turnpike Road.
3. C. Pusateri noted Nick Altieri is giving a free concert on April 13, 2013.

GRANT NEWS

None at this time.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

D. Sorrentino made motion to approve Clerk's bill and expenses of A. SanAngelo, 2nd by J. Betkoski. All aye.

With no further business R. Bradley made motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 P.M. 2nd by A. SanAngelo. All aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Wilson, Clerk for the Economic Development Commission – Meeting
3/25/2013