

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
JUNE 24, 2013
MINUTES
(Draft Copy – Subject to Revision)**

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Jeremy Rodorigo, Anthony SanAngelo, Edward Korzon, Dominick Sorrentino and Clare Pusateri

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: John Betkoski, Robert Bradley.

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

MINUTES

Minutes from the April 22, 2013 Regular Monthly Meeting were reviewed. **A. SanAngelo made motion to approve the Minutes as presented, 2nd by E. Korzon. All aye.**

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No public comments.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Commission received report from the CEDS out of Shelton to review.

BEACON FALLS MERCHANT'S ASSOCIATION

Nothing new to report. From all accounts, it appeared the Riverfest went well.

OLD BUSINESS

1. J. Rodorigo noted a Beacon Falls bumper sticker has been designed and are available for sale at the Beacon Falls Pharmacy for \$1.00. J. Rodorigo mentioned it might be a good idea as well to have the stickers available at the Town Hall as well. The stickers might encourage to come to Beacon Falls to see all of the recreational options available, including hiking, kayaking, canoeing and walking etc.
2. J. Rodorigo noted there are some photos and a story featuring the April EDC Breakfast.
3. J. Rodorigo noted that that the access to High Rock is still locked and now you cannot even get in from the Naugatuck side. D. Sorrentino suggested contacting

- Sam Gold from the CNVCOG for assistance as the COG has been very helpful on this matter. Rich Minnick could offer some insight into this as well. A. SanAngelo felt that possibly the Railroad is opposed to allowing access because of safety concerns and the right of way. Commissioners noted the close proximity of the railroad tracks to the walking trail in Ansonia.
4. J. Roderigo had received a call from a person interested in opening a restaurant, featuring International cuisine in the former Full Harvest location. The gentlemen seemed quite interested and Jeremy will keep in touch with him. Discussion of parking problems. Perhaps the traffic pattern could be changed, or the Beacon Falls Market might offer some parking on their property when they are closed.
 5. The Economic Development Breakfast held on April 23, 2013, went very well. Commission would like to continue this.

NEW BUSINESS

1. D. Sorrentino noted a moving company is leasing space on a month to month basis for now at the former Auto Swage building on North Main Street
2. E. Korzon reported there are still some site problems at the Commerce Park, especially near the pond. He also noted that the light to the sign at the Park entrance was repaired, but it was placed much too close to the sign, so that when it is lit, you cannot read the sign. The light should be at least six (6) feet away from the sign.
3. Commission would also like to see some signage placed at the entrance to the Commerce as well as to Old Turnpike Road to indicate the businesses located at those locations. Perhaps the Merchants Association might want to address this.
4. A. SanAngelo noted he had recently spoken with an Assistant Guidance Counselor from Woodland Regional High School, who noted that there are students who might be able to assist this Commission in helping with the Town's website. It was suggested meeting with E. Groth, the Town's webmaster along with Woodland High School to see how the school could help the Town. J. Roderigo noted the high school has a whole TV production facility.
5. J. Roderigo will speak with First Selectman G. Smith to check into the lights on the Town's Streetscape walkway, noting that some of the lights are already out and most of them are very dim. He also noted that one of the flags is bent, adding the Town must do its best to keep on top of this walkway to keep it nice looking and in repair at all times.
6. J. Roderigo noted that if the 2013/2014 Municipal Budget passes at the Town Meeting on 6/25/13, the EDC will have a \$10,000 budget to work. He suggested anyone who would like to attend any type of forums or other event that the Commission would pay for it. The money will also be used for marketing. He added the money has to be spent wisely, so the Town realizes it has made a good investment with the Commission. A. SanAngelo said the best way to advertise the Town is electronically. E. Korzon noted money is spent wisely when Consultants are used, adding he would like to see more long range plans with regard to Main Street. A. SanAngelo noted that Town Planning Consultant Brian

- Miller has compiled a draft of the Plan of Conservation & Development and it is now in the hands of the Planning & Zoning Commission for its review and action.
7. E. Korzon also asked about the former Bronson Building and how some land was to be used for employee parking only, and now it appears to be used by large commercial buses and is very unsightly. Suggestion made to have Town's Zoning Enforcement Officer Brian Herb take a look into this matter.
 8. A. SanAngelo suggested talking to the Bronson Building Manager to get a list of tenants in the property as well as information as to any available space. It was noted there is some vacant space with the moving out of Kolga.
 9. Commission agreed with recent comments that the State of Connecticut is not doing a good job in helping its Cities and Towns in keeping and attracting businesses to the State.
 10. E. Korzon again noted the ugly look of both of the entrances to the Town, noting the Police as well as others have clearly made their own path to turn around at the entrance coming from Naugatuck. The area is unsightly. He suggested planting some type of low maintenance smaller area.
 11. A. SanAngelo said this would probably be his last meeting as he is in the process of selling his home and moving to Oxford. Commission is sorry to see him leave and discussed possibilities of people who might be interested in serving on this Commission. All agreed that this person should be a businessman who has some freedom to work with Commission. A. SanAngelo noted he is a registered Democrat and the position might have to be filled either by a Democrat or an Unaffiliated voter.
 12. Commission agreed to meet with Aleta Miner from the Shelton EDC maybe at this Commission's July meeting, but to meet with her at her convenience in Shelton. C. Pusateri will check with her on possibility of holding this workshop.
 13. C. Pusateri also suggested some business testimonials included on our website.
 14. C. Pusateri also suggested putting together an Advisory Board consisting of local businesses.
 15. Discussion of the 'snow'be'gone' project and problems this has encountered trying to get manufactured. This equipment is important as new laws take effect in CT which do not allow for any snow to be on the roofs of SUV's or tractor trailers.

GRANT NEWS/UPDATES

None at this time.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Clerk's bill was approved for payment.

With no other business, **D. Sorrentino made motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 P.M. 2nd by C. Pusateri. All aye.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen A. Wilson, Clerk of the Economic Development Commission
Monthly Meeting – June 24, 2013