

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
AUGUST 26, 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 7:31 P.M. .

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Jeremy Rodorigo, Anthony SanAngelo, Edward Korzon, Dominick Sorrentino, Clare Pusateri, John Betkoski, Robert Bradley.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Susan Dowdell, Michael Krenesky

MINUTES

Minutes from the June 24, 2013 Regular Monthly Meeting were reviewed. **D. Sorrentino made motion to approve the Minutes as presented, 2nd by E. Korzon. All aye.**

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

1. Susan Dowdell, 32 Wolfe Avenue, noted that the Library had received a grant from the Katharine Matthies Foundation. These funds will be used for a small group computer class, Universal Class Online Learning and other workshops for entrepreneurs and Jobseekers. She would like to work with small local businesses who might need some training with the computer. Commission thanked her for her work in applying for and obtaining some grant funds.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. J. Rodorigo noted he had received flyers about an upcoming seminar from the Northeast Economic Development Association who would be holding a program in Portland, Maine.
2. A. SanAngelo noted that Peter Dorpalen, the current Executive Director of the Central Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments is retiring, with a reception for him to be held at the HopBrook Pavilion on September 6, 2013 from 3:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.

BEACON FALLS MERCHANT'S ASSOCIATION

R. Bradley noted that the Association did lose some revenue from this year's Riverfest and Duck Race, but that a good time was had by all who attended. He noted the group

put in a full page ad in the new Beacon Falls/Prospect Town Guide. He suggested there be a link from a potential website for the association to be linked to the Town's website.

OLD BUSINESS

1. J. Rodorigo noted the Fire Department had to respond to a call up at High Rock and since three (3) different gates were locked and no one had a key, that the Fire Department had to break the locks to get into the area. Discussion noted that even though this is a State Park, if no one has access to it, then why have a State Park? J. Betkoski said he would again speak with the DOT and DEP about this, as it appears that someone merely wants to exercise their power in not allowing access to this very popular location. The DOT cites safety for its reasons, but no one could ever recall any problem ever happening because of the close proximity to the railroad tracks. State Representative Teresa Conroy is aware of this situation and is working on it.
2. There appears to be some activity going on at the former Full Harvest, but no one had any further information on this.
3. J. Rodorigo and C. Pusateri met with Shelton's Economic Development Director James Ryan in a very informative session. This Commission's concern is that Beacon Falls has nothing to hand out to businesses who are looking at Beacon Falls as a possible location for them. D. Sorrentino agreed to take a look at folder put together many years ago which contains a lot of information about the Town and to talk to Woodland High School's Graphic Person who might be able to get students to assist with the update of this promotional information as part of their Community Service requirements. R. Bradley suggested playing a little bit with coming up with some type of slogan to promote the Town, i.e. Beacon Falls, a "best kept secret". A. SanAngelo also suggested using the Town's location to the Oxford Airport as another positive factor in getting a business to come to Town. D. Sorrentino will contact Woodland to get the name of the school counselor who could offer some assistance with getting students to help with some type of marketing campaign.
4. J. Rodorigo noted the Farm Market is going well and will continue through October.
 5. J. Betkoski noted the work on the retaining wall has begun and thanked former State Representative Len Greene Jr. for working on this.
 6. Question asked about the tractor trailers being parked at the Bronson Building.
 7. Beacon Falls Market seems to be doing a little better since they have more products available.

NEW BUSINESS

1. J. Rodorigo noted that United Rentals is coming to Town and will be located on Alliance Circle at the former Earthworks property. Questions asked how their equipment (personal property) will be assessed since at times the equipment is

- located in Beacon Falls and other times it could be located out of Town. J. Rodorigo will have a discussion the Town's Assessor to see how this all works.
2. J. Rodorigo also noted that a new barbershop has opened on Main Street. The shop also has a few other locations and the owners seem to be very Community minded.
 3. It was noted that Mario Trepca wants to put up another building on Main Street, but there are concerns about drainage. Clerk noted this item will be discussed at the September 9, 2013 Board of Selectmen meeting. A. SanAngelo noted that Mr. Trepca wants to invest in something else in Town, adding that so far, he has done a good job with properties he has developed.
 4. J. Rodorigo received a call from Harold Murtha about a business who might be interested in moving into the Murtha Industrial Park. The company is a clean manufacturing company which wants to lease 50,000 square feet and has fifty (50) employees. The company wanted to know what Beacon Falls could offer them better than what Waterbury might be able to offer them. J. Rodorigo noted that we had nothing to give them at this point with regard to the best things Beacon Falls has to offer, adding that some type of brochure or informational handout would be a good thing.
 5. J. Rodorigo noted that a small film company made a film at Matthies Park and did patronage local businesses for their needs.
 6. C. Pusateri noted the Valley Chamber is holding "Chamber on the Road" events and has scheduled one for the last Friday in September (the 27th) in Beacon Falls at Digiorgi Roofing & Siding.
 7. It was noted that veterinarian is looking at the Old School House property and would like to utilize that space.

GRANT NEWS/UPDATES

None at this time.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Clerk's bill was approved for payment.

With no other business, **J. Betkoski made motion to adjourn the meeting at 815 P.M. 2nd by R. Bradley. All aye.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen A. Wilson, Clerk of the Economic Development Commission
Monthly Meeting – August 27, 2013

