

**TOWN OF BEACON FALLS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MARCH 24, 2014
MINUTES**

Chairman Jeremy Rodorigo called the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Beacon Falls Economic Development Commission to order at 7:31 PM.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Jeremy Rodorigo, John Betkoski, Dennis Phipps, Robert Bradley.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Ed Korzon, Brian DeGeorge, Clare Pusateri.

OTHERS PRESENT: State Representative Theresa Conroy

Prior to the meeting Mr. Dennis Phipps was sworn in by Justice of the Peace/Commissioner John Betkoski. Chairman/Notary Public Jeremy Rodorigo and Clerk/JP Peter Christensen witnessed the event.

An updated EDC member contact list was distributed.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the February 24, 2014 meeting were reviewed. **R. Bradley made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by J. Betkoski. All ayes.**

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

State Representative Theresa Conroy presented the Commission with her “Small Business Express Program”, discussing the programs available to assist small businesses with Revolving Loans, Job Creation Loans, and a Matching Grant Fund. Representative Conroy stressed her willingness to help the EDC in any way she could.

Lauren Classey suggested the Commission provide the Board of Finance with an itemized budget request specifically outlining the need for the additional funding requested.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

BEACON FALLS MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION:

The plan to spend up to \$1000.00 for an ad in Connecticut Magazine has been cancelled due to missing the cut off date for the ad.

J.Betkoski made a motion to authorize spending up to \$1000.00 on general advertising for the upcoming Kayak/Duck Race. Seconded by D. Phipps. All ayes.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. J. Rodorigo will be contacting an individual to assist in the design/graphic portion of the pamphlet project.
2. J. Rodorigo stated he has had no contact regarding the Yoplait inquiry in the Murtha Industrial park. J. Rodorigo made a point of acknowledging the valuable assistance from Aquarion Water Company regarding water flow issues for the fire suppression system requirements.
3. The Beacon Falls Market remains closed. J. Rodorigo contacted LeBonn's Market regarding the possibility of them being interested in the retail space. LeBonn's was very helpful in stating the current "industry norm" is a minimum of 10,000 sq. feet.
4. Flash Signs has completed a preliminary design for the Downtown Sign Project.
5. The Beacon Falls Public Works Dept. will be repairing the guardrail in the Industrial Park damaged over the winter.
6. J. Rodorigo contacted the Murtha Brothers regarding the possible repair or replacement of the "Welcome to Beacon Falls" sign located on the Exit 24 off ramp.
7. Work is progressing at the All American Bar & Grill.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. General discussion regarding contacting organizations like the Milford Business Group to brainstorm programs promoting local businesses.
2. J. Rodorigo suggested an ad-hoc committee inviting townspeople to offer ideas on how to bolster local business. Possibly inviting interested residents to attend a future EDC meeting to discuss the issue could be advantageous.
3. EDC budget submission to the Town of Beacon Falls.
4. J. Rodorigo reports a new Screen Printing/Promotional Items company has moved into the Beacon Falls Industrial Park on South Main Street.
5. The new cabinet company located in the former Automated Mailman building behind Gabe's Mobil has received Enterprise Zone Status from the State of Connecticut.

GRANT NEWS/UPDATES:

As previously stated, State Representative Theresa Conroy both discussed and presented her Small Business Express Program to the Commission.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Clerk's bill was approved for payment.

With no other business, **J. Betkoski made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM. Seconded by R. Bradley. All ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Peter A. Christensen, Clerk of the Economic Development Commission.
Monthly Meeting-March 24, 2014