

**TOWN OF BEACON FALLS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2015**

MINUTES

Chairman Jeremy Rodorigo called the regular monthly meeting of the Beacon Falls Economic Development Commission to order at 7:33 pm.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: J. Rodorigo, J. Betkoski, B. DeGeorge, E. Korzon, D. Phipps, R. Bradley, K. Trzaski.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Past EDC Chairman Tony San Angelo, Mr. Herman Schuler.

Chairman Rodorigo formally introduced and welcomed Kristen Trzaski as a newly appointed Economic Development Commissioner.

MINUTES:

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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Gary Kamarowsky spoke of the Town's plan from the 1990's for Downtown which included purchasing available properties when available. Tony San Angelo offered info regarding the history of the Plan for Downtown.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

BEACON FALLS MERCHANT ASSOCIATION:

R. Bradley reports that the combination BFMA Kayak Race & Lion's Club Duck Race is scheduled for Saturday May 9, 2015.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The bakery project tentatively planned for North Main Street appears dead.
2. A meeting with State Representative Theresa Conroy will be scheduled in the near future.
3. The new Art Studio at 141 So. Main St. appears to be doing well as is Liberty Screen Printing.

4. State D.O.T. to be contacted in the Spring regarding the work on South Main Street and it's impact on the greenway project.
5. Further investigation to maintenance alternatives for downtown on hold until the Spring to better evaluate what is needed.
6. The Web Page / Brochure Project is moving forward with J. Voket.
7. The Angled Parking project is still viable with discussion of proceeding with a final suggestion and submission to the public at a town meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **A Motion was made my D. Phipps and seconded by R. Bradley for the EDC to hold a Fishing Derby in early 2016 with planning for the event to start in October of 2015.** All ayes, motion passes.

2. EDC Budget preparation to begin.

3. **Elections:**

Chairman Roderigo thanked the Commission for all their support and hard work under his Chairmanship, but he would not be seeking re-election as Chairman.

Nominations were opened with Jeremy Roderigo nominating John Betkoski as Chairman. The nomination was seconded by Robert Bradley. With no further nominations Dennis Phipps made a motion to cease all nominations, seconded by Robert Bradley. All ayes, motion passes. The current Chairman cast one ballot for John Betkoski as Chairman of the Beacon Falls Economic Development Commission.

Newly elected Chairman John Betkoski then nominated Jeremy Roderigo for Vice Chairman. The nomination was seconded by Robert Bradley. With no further nominations Dennis Phipps made a motion to cease all nominations, seconded by Robert Bradley. All ayes, motion passes. The Chairman cast one ballot for Jeremy Roderigo as Vice Chairman of the Beacon Falls Economic Development Commission.

All commissioners joined in thanking outgoing Chairman Jeremy Roderigo for his guidance and hard work during his tenure as Chairman and furthermore congratulated both Jack Betkoski and Jeremy Roderigo as incoming Officers.

4. The election for Treasurer will take place at the March regular monthly meeting on March 30, 2014
5. The regular monthly meeting of the EDC for March/2015 has been rescheduled from March 23rd. to March 30th.
6. The C.E.R.C. Training originally scheduled for 11/12/2014 is tentatively rescheduled for the March EDC Meeting on March 30, 2015. More info to follow.

GRANT NEWS /UPDATES:

None

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Clerks bill was approved for payment. **R. Bradley made a motion to approve, seconded by D. Phipps. All ayes, motion passed.**

GUEST:

Mr. Herman Schuler, a former Oxford EDC member was invited to attend the meeting by E. Korzon & R. Bradley to offer his experience and insight on the function of an economic development commission.

Mr. Schuler offered many valuable suggestions and comments to the members. These are a sample:

- A separate EDC web site off the Town web site.
- Publish all commercial & business listings currently available.
- Reach out to local realtors and form a good working relationship with them.
- A dedicated phone number and answering point offering concise information to callers including assigning all inquires to a dedicated EDC Commissioner for further assistance.
- Work with other Town Boards and Commissions to form a “Fast Track” for potential Business & Commercial tenants.

The entire Commission joined in thanking Mr. Schuler for his time and dedication to economic development in the area.

With no other business, **R. Bradley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 pm. Seconded by D. Phipps.** All ayes, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter A. Christensen

Clerk

Regular Monthly Meeting – February 23, 2015