

**Economic Development Commission
Wednesday February 26, 2014– 7:00PM
Colchester town Hall
Meeting Room 1
Minutes and Motions**

Attendees: Bruce Goldstein, Andreas Bisbikos, Jim Ford, Bill Curran

Absent: Kele Issa, Paul Catalano, John Dion

Also Attending: Adam Turner, Gregg Schuster

1. Call the meeting to order at 7:03pm
2. Additions to agenda - none
3. Approval of the July 15, 2013 Minutes
 - Motion to approve minutes made by Andreas Bisbikos
 - Seconded by Bill Curran
 - Motion passed with Mr. Goldstein and Mr. Bisbikos voting yes and Mr. Ford and Mr. Curran abstaining.

4. Introduction of Members – Calendar

Mr. Goldstein explained the history and accomplishments of the EDC. He summarized the issues that the Commission faced over the last decade. Each of the members introduced themselves and briefly outlined their backgrounds and goals for the Commission moving forward.

The Commission schedule of meeting on the third Monday of the month was discussed. The next meeting was scheduled for March 24, 2014.

5. 2014 Agenda

The Commission discussed its proposed activities and goals for the next year. Gregg Schuster expressed his hope that the Commission could be reenergized. He outlined several ideas including developing a package of incentives for developers so that the Town could be more competitive in certain situations. He also hoped the Commission would make regular recommendations on regulatory mechanism to spur new business.

Mr. Ford discussed working on getting additional funding and developing regional partnerships to encourage infrastructure and other financing mechanisms. He stated that the days of developer financed infrastructure was over and the Town needed other avenues.

Mr. Curran asked the status of the blight ordinance. Mr. Schuster reported that a Town Task Force had been created but they were waiting for guidance from the State, which was studying the issue.

6. Presentation – Current Activities. Mr. Turner outlined the commercial developments in Colchester that had either been approved or were in the process of obtaining development approval. Mr. Turner also voiced his opinion that a Westchester Village Plan needed more attention and hoped that it would be done as part of the POCD process. Mr. Ford indicated that he would like to see a commercial market study completed to determine what was feasible so that the town would be in a good position to target new businesses.

7. Linwood Avenue Streetscape-

Mr. Turner outlined the Linwood Avenue grant and reviewed the process for completion. Mr. Ford asked Mr. Turner to prepare a cost benefit of the lighting plan to present to the Board of Selectman. Mr. Turner indicated that he would discuss this with Mr. Paggioli and complete such as report.

8. POCD Activities

Mr. Turner outlined the activities and schedule regarding the updating of the Towns Plan of Conservation and Development.

9. Selection of Officers

Commission put off acting on this item until the March meeting.

10. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn made by Andreas Bisbikos
- Seconded by Jim Ford
- Motion carried unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm