

Monday April 21, 2014 – 7:00 P.M.
COLCHESTER TOWN HALL
Motions/Minutes
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Regular Meeting

Attendees: Chairman Jim Ford, Andreas Bisbikos, John Dion, Kele Issa, Paul Catalano, Bill Curran, Bruce Fox,

Absent: Bruce Goldstein

Also Attending: Adam Turner

1. Call Meeting to Order at 7:02pm
2. Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes for March 26, 2014

Motion by Andreas Bisbikos

Second by John Dion

Motion passed 4-0 with 3 abstentions

3. Five minute session to the public
None
4. New Business

Mr. Ford introduced the next several issues. He pointed out they were new and would be discussed further in the next few meetings.

1. Food Hub Project Proposal

Joint discussion with the Colchester Agricultural Commission regarding the development of a food hub in Colchester. The concept was explained and the potential project debated. Issues regarded the public school system participation, the use of the facility by farmers, and other feasibility issues. A grant to the US Department of Agriculture due on April 30, 2014 was discussed. It was the consensus of the group that it was a worthwhile project to accomplish and more work needed to be done. While it was noted that the April 30th deadline was only a week away and it was difficult to get a grant application done in that period of time, it was thought that an effort should be made to complete a grant application and submit it. Staff agreed to do the best they could to produce the grant application.

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NANCY A. BRAY
TOWN CLERK

Nancy A. Bray

2. Discussion of potential Economic Initiatives
 1. Village District Maintenance and improvement
 1. Budget issues
 2. Special Service District Concept

Chairman Ford outlined his views on the town's effort to maintain public roadway infrastructure once projects had been completed. He pointed to the creation and development of special districts that would raise targeted funding for specific activities such as maintenance or infrastructure upgrade. He pointed to several examples in the State that have developed reports to accomplish this. He indicated he would invite the state legislative delegation to a meeting to gather support for funding some studies related to this.

2. Old Bacon Academy - Day Hall- Car Dealership update for members.

Mr. Turner outlined the status of the property including efforts to development the property. He indicated that the Town had developed regulations and other methods to ensure they were ready to proceed if any applications to redevelop the property was presented.

3. Impending Zoning Change Impacts and Opportunities
 1. Planning Grant initiative
 1. Feasibility and Market analysis
 2. Marketing plan
 2. Community Survey for development desires.
 1. Survey Monkey or Google Doc
 3. Westchester Village Opportunities discussion.

Mr. Turner briefed members on this effort and stated that the planning department viewed the development of a comprehensive Westchester village plan as being very important and top on the list of things to do following the completion of the POCD. Members discussed the project. Members discussed targeted surveys and other methods of gathering information related to community needs.

4. Housekeeping for the EDC Website
 1. Colchester Development Coordinator Facebook Page?
 2. CTIP documentation
 3. Other ideas for improvement.

Mr. Fox spoke on the need to upgrade our marketing efforts especially in social media. He spoke about his experiences in marketing and the outlined several strategies the town might explore. Other members also agreed. Mr. Turner would report on effort to redo web page and Facebook page.

5. Old Business

1. Status report and schedule for Zoning updates –

Mr. Turner stated that the Board was deliberating the changes to the Code and would vote on adoption shortly. He explained that the town's attorney had also reviewed the document.

2. Status report and schedule for POCD

Mr. Turner reported that the Towns consultant will introduce the POCD update at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting on the 21st of May. He urged all members to attend

3. Status report on Linwood Ave project

Mr. Turner reported that the Linwood project had been funded and bid out and a contractor selected. He stated that the project was expected to commence in late May and be completed in 4-6 weeks.

4. Status report on Cragin Court upgrade project

1. Targeted funding
2. Next Steps.

Mr. Turner outlined the process of developing a plan and obtaining funding for this project. A basic design has already been completed. He indicated that there were also ownership issues to be addressed.

5. Adjournment

Motion by Andreas Bisbikos

Second by Kele Issa

Motion passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm