

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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COLCHESTER, CT

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Regular Meeting

December 21, 2015

Room 2 Town Hall

John Ford
JOHN FORD
TOWN CLERK

1. Call to Order –The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chairman Ford. In attendance : John Dion, Jean Walsh, Bruce Goldsein, Bruce Fox Andreas Bisbikos – BOF, Art Shilosky – First Selectman, many Bacon students
2. Public Comments: none
3. Changes : none
4. Approval of Minutes: J Walsh moved to accept, J Dion seconded, approved by quorum
5. a. New Business: none presented, Town is still in process of seeking Town Planner
b. Budget : Chairnan Ford will be presenting a budget to BOS to include clerk fees - \$600 – motioned, and approved unanimsly
ii) enhancement grant seed - \$5000, supplemental grant funds - \$5000 – tabled for further conversation
c. Commission Vacancies – one new appointee, 2 vacancies
d. Alternate Vacancy – still open

6. Old Business : a. Enhancement Grant Project - help merchants or property owners in village. Tamara Dimitri suggested it compliment the Anti-blight ordinance, w/ \$5000 seed money which could go toward facades murals/ flower boxes. Town would be partner in beautification work. Business could post the before / after pictures on web site.

A.Bisbikos questioned the award criteria, and the possibility of double dipping. A. Shilosky suggested the EDC perform a survey of the town businesses to determine what merchant may be interested , or have a need to participate. Contracts w/ merchants must be developed.

Chairman Ford agreed to draft a letter to businesses, and to is going to schedule a presentation to the CBA for their interest. J Walsh volunteered to work w/ T Dimitri to develop the outline of the grant w/ criteria for award, and oversight.

b. Committee Reports : i. J Ford – wrote web site w/ 4 pages incl; opportunity map. Will contact IT person for town to get it on Town website. He is also trying to set up a meeting w/ DECD to establish a municipal development plan Colchester can use.

ii. Sign project : - B Fox reported – spoke w/ school – art classes ok to design, woodworking class ok to make, scouts ok to install . \$800 worth of materials x 4 signs = \$3200 needed. First Selectmans Shilosky suggested reaching out to community groups for sponsorship of signs. B Fox and J.Ford to follow up on that.

- c. Municipal Development Plans: i. Village Center – J Ford suggested getting information and support from DECD for this plan. 1. Historic Grant Opportunity – suggested the EDC write a letter in support of the Historic Districts attempts to obtain funding for seed money to particaly reface old Bacon Academy building – A Shilosky mentioned the HC was already moving forward.
ii. Future development areas – need to pursue w/ DECD meeting

d. Town Planner appointment – no qualified applicants at this time. Zoning Enforcement officer is performing job part time w/ his other duties.

e. Outreach to neighboring Communities : state municipal grant – must include other towns in planning process. J Ford will reach out to other towns EDC & planners

f. Briefing of State Legislators : deferred

J Walsh suggested the EDC establish sub-committees to work on specific issues: a) grants – J Walsh, b) CBA liaison c) sign sponsors – B Fox

7. Adjournment : 8:43 pm