

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION**

The Economic Development Commission held a special meeting on Thursday, March 7, 2013, in meeting room #3 at the Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT 06470.

Present: Don Sharpe, Chairman Economic Development Commission; Elana Bertram; Jean Leonard; Walter Motyka; Allan Song; and James Gulalo.

Absent: Martin Gersten, Joe Humeston

Also Present: Mike Burton, President SHOP; a few Newtown business owners and representatives.

Don Sharpe called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM and introduced **James Gulalo**, a new member of the Economic Development Commission.

Public Participation:

Mike Burton, President SHOP: Commended the EDC and subcommittee for taking on the task of the grant. He said he thought that only Sandy Hook businesses should have been eligible for the grant. He suggested any remaining grant money be used to support Sandy Hook businesses and the Sandy Hook Streetscape project to help improve the business climate in Sandy Hook.

Sharon Doherty – PJ’s Laundromat: Said she wished that she would receive the full amount of grant money that she applied for and would like the committee to reconsider her application. Don Sharpe agreed that the application could be reconsidered. Elana Bertram laid out a timeline for the earliest possible date the review could be completed, which was after the special STEAP Business Assistance Committee meeting tentatively scheduled for 3/13, and the regular EDC meeting scheduled for 3/19. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that her original check would be issued, and the application would be reviewed after that.

Linda Manna – Newtown Country Mill: Said that she found out on 3/7 that her application had been tabled and she was asking for an extension. Don Sharpe said an extension was granted and her application will be reviewed. The same timeline for review from above was reiterated.

Gary Seri – Stone River Grill: Said he was concerned as he found out that some applications had been tabled and it was not clear if he would be getting more phone calls to follow up on his application. **Jean Leonard** said that he would be getting another call. He spoke about remaining open during the loss period as well as other details regarding his business situation and application.

Luke Ostheimer – The Hook Restaurant: Said the restaurant personnel were not aware of the grant deadline. He was given the online links to the forms and was told to submit the paperwork to the EDC office. **Don Sharpe** clarified that submission of application does not mean that the application would necessarily be considered.

Walter Motyka motioned to go into an Executive Session at 7:27 PM. **Elana Bertram** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Walter Motyka motioned to come out of the Executive Session. **Elana Bertram** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the Executive Session ended at 7:42 PM.

Walter Motyka motioned to approve 24 recommendations for the businesses not tabled. Payments will be mailed to those businesses receiving grant assistance. **Allan Song** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A list of applicants was made available. Don Sharpe noted that one business on the list (The Toy Tree) had withdrawn their application.

Elana Bertram said she wanted to publicly thank the volunteers on the commission and the friends and neighbors whose taxes made this grant possible. She said she was happy to help in some small way in the relief effort and was glad to see the process approached with the spirit of charity.

Walter Motyka motioned to adjourn the meeting. **Jean Leonard** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.

<u>Business / Contact</u>	<u>Rec Pmt</u>
Apex Glass LLC	\$13,760
Avance Esthethiques Day Spa	\$16,191
Berkshire Motors	\$12,632
Burgerittoville, LLC	\$4,550
Center for Ther. Massage&Athletics	\$3,100
Figs Wood Fired Bistro	\$18,488
Fun Kuts for the Whole Family LLC	\$4,684
Good Ideas	\$2,303
McGeorgi's Antiques and Consign.	\$3,000
McLaughlin Vineyard	\$1,473
Misty Morning Children's Center	\$1,091
Newtown Pizza Palace	\$8,504
Pathways Counseling, LLC	\$2,005
PJ's Laundromat	\$6,594
Sandy Hook Hair Co.	\$8,087
Sandy Hook Wine and Liquor	\$11,000
The Villa Restaurant	\$9,830
Tumble Jungle	\$15,159
UK Gourmet	\$10,798
Well Baskets	\$5,678
	\$158,927