

The Newtown Economic Development Commission held a special meeting on Tuesday, December 10, 2013, in Meeting Room #3 at the Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT 06470.

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Present: Chairwoman Jean Leonard; Vice-Chairman Walter Motyka ; Donald Sharpe; Joseph Humeston and Paul Fadus. Vice-Chairman Elana Bertram arrived at 8:07 PM.

Absent: James Gulalo; Al Roznicki and Martin Gersten.

Also Present: Elizabeth Stocker, Director Economic and Community Development, several members of the public.

Jean Leonard called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

Public Participation:

Alan Weiner, Villages at Lexington Garden, 30 Church Hill Road, Newtown – Mr. Weiner spoke about the project at this address. A traffic light has been approved and the road will be widened. Plans were shared with the EDC and discussion took place regarding the buildings which will be brick and siding. Mr. Weiner had previously submitted an application for the Business Incentive Program.

Joe Humeston motioned to pass along the application for the Villages at Lexington Gardens to the Board of Selectmen for review. **Paul Fadus** seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Donald Sharpe motioned to approve the meeting minutes for the November 19, 2013 regular meeting. **Walt Motyka** seconded the motion. The minutes were passed unanimously.

Director of Economic and Community Development Report:

- F '14-'15 budget –The current budget for Fees and Professional services is \$41,000. **Ms. Stocker** noted that more work has to be done in business attraction. This person would market all available tracts of land in the town to attract new businesses. **Paul Fadus** motioned to increase the F'14-'15 budget by \$10,000 to \$51,000 for fees and professional services. **Joe Humeston** seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- **Ms. Stocker and Jean Leonard** spoke regarding the STEAP Business Assistance Grant. Funding for a brand steward will be requested to consult with Sandy Hook businesses. This person will help the businesses with graphic design and use of the CT Main Street generated campaign. **Don Sharpe** noted that the EDC has been focusing on Sandy Hook businesses to the exclusion of other businesses in town. While **Mr. Sharpe** agrees that SH businesses have suffered, he would like to see payback from the investment and that all businesses should be looked at, not just Sandy Hook. **Joe Humeston** motioned to spend \$7,500 from the STEAP Business Assistance Grant funds for the brand steward. **Walt Motyka** seconded the motion and it passed 4-1 with Donald Sharpe voting against it.
- Business visitations - **Ms. Stocker** noted that she has spoken with four businesses which wish to expand.
- Seminars – Newtown Savings Bank will sponsor at least six seminars at \$100 each.

- EPA – bid has gone out and are due back in January for the remediation and demolition of Danbury Hall and the single family houses.
- Beyond the Vine BIP application – was approved by the Legislative Council. The next step is for the construction to begin.

Ongoing / Old Business:

- SHOP –**Joe Humeston** reported that there will be no media parking signs posted around Sandy Hook Village around 12/14.
- Chinese University – This request for development at Fairfield Hills is moving forward. It would eventually have 2000 students. The plan is to reuse buildings on campus. Discussion ensued as to the overall plan for FH in terms of layout which includes economic development, not for profits and life safety buildings.

Election of Officers:

Joe Humeston motioned to select Jean Leonard as Chairwoman, Elana Bertram for vice-Chairman and Joe Humeston as secretary (dependent on his term being approved by the BOS). **Donald Sharpe** seconded motion and it passed unanimously.

Sacred Heart University – Business Incubators

A presentation by Briana Dipietro, Marie Legagneur, Tara Orfei and Joseph Zumasigee, SHU students was given. This presentation covered types of incubators, a proposed name for an incubator in town (Newtown New Business), reasons organizations sponsor incubators, proposed locations, an organizational structure, fee structure, financials and recommendations. Discussion and questions followed.

Donald Sharpe motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by **Paul Fadus**. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting ended at 9:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Christal Preszler