

Jean Leonard, Chairman  
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## TOWN OF NEWTOWN

### NEWTOWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Newtown Economic Development Commission held a regular meeting on  
Tuesday, July 14, 2015, at 7:00 pm

Meeting Room #3 at the Newtown Municipal Center,  
3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT 06470

These minutes are subject to the approval of the Economics Development Commission

**PRESENT:** Mike Boyle, Bob Rau, Wes Thompson, Al Roznicki, Laurie Walker of the 12/14 Foundation and Elana Bertram arriving at 7:41pm.

**Also Present:** Betsy Paynter, Economic Development Coordinator

**NOT PRESENT:** Jean Leonard, Matthew Mihalick and Paul Fadus

**Bob Rau** called the meeting to order at 7:07pm

**Public Participation:** Lori Walker of the 12/14 Foundation met with the EDC of July 14, 2015 to discuss the possibility of renovating Plymouth Hall on the Fairfield Hills campus as a performing arts center. Dr. Michael Baroody, MD created the non-profit foundation in response to Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy. This foundation is having a great response from kids and their parent; they need a home to expand the program to make it a year round program. The 12/14 needs to have more clarification about renovation and costs before making any kind of commitment. The EDC supports a performing arts center on the Fairfield Hill Campus in hopes the space would allow for local businesses to use it as well for conferences, business needs, etc. It would also act as an economic driver for the campus to increase interest for a restaurant on the campus in the future.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - Bob Rau motioned to approve the minutes of June 9, 2015 meeting. Michael Boyle Seconded the motion and all were in favor. The minutes were approved as written.

#### Reports/Discussion/Action

Betsy Paynter provided an update noting the new directory sign installed by the Commerce Road Business Association on the corner of Church Hill Road and Commerce Road. The Booth library launched their virtual SBDC initiative and the EDC is partnering to help get the word out to local business owners and entrepreneurs. The EDC website, [www.newtown.org](http://www.newtown.org), will be moving into the new wordpress format over the summer. The next Sandy Hook Signage & Wayfinding workshop will be held on Wednesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6pm – 8pm. All EDC members are encouraged to attend and spread the word as well. Betsy reminded the commission of the various ribbon cuttings coming up too.

Wes Thompson passed out a rough draft of the EDC Strategic Plan update and asked the commissioners to review and provide Wes their feedback. They will adjust the plan over the next few meetings. The commission is looking to complete their five year strategic for 2016.

Respectfully Submitted  
Sandy Hannan  
Clerk