

Jean Leonard, Chairman
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TOWN OF NEWTOWN

NEWTOWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Newtown Economic Development Commission held a regular meeting on
Tuesday, August 11, 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, Matt Milhack, Wes Thompson, Jean Leonard.

Also Present: Betsy Paynter, Economic Development Coordinator

NOT PRESENT: Elana Bertram, Paul Fadus and Marty Gersten

Bob Rau called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

Public Participation: No public participation

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Matt Mihalcik motioned to approve the minutes of July 14, 2015 meeting. Michael Boyle seconded the motion and all were in favor. The minutes were approved as written.

Reports/Discussion/Action

Mike Boyle gave an update from the SHOP meeting. He's helping SHOP obtain advertising quotes for their fall concert series in Sandy Hook Village taking place on the green next to the Foundry along the river. The concert dates are: September 19th, 26th and October 3rd from 1pm – 3pm. Mike also reported to the EDC that SHOP would like to endorse the future use of the Auto Marine property at 7 Glen Road which the town owns to be demolished and turned into municipal parking area for the village with picnic area along the river, a kiosk promoting the village offerings, hiking trails, etc, bike racks and possibly a pavilion for public gathering and enjoyment. SHOP feels the shared parking concept is not happening in all locations and there's a need for municipal parking.

The commissioners discussed the draft of the next five year EDC strategic plan which Wes Thompson has prepared for the group to provide input. Commissioners will provide Wes feedback before the next EDC meeting.

There was discussion regarding Fairfield Hills development. It was decided that Jean Leonard, the EDC chair would contact Tom Connors, the FHA chair and invite him to an EDC meeting to provide an update on development and the EDC to offer support to the Authority.

Betsy Paynter provided an update noting the July EDC newsletter was released and is available on newtown.org. The Sandy Hook Signage and Wayfinding consultant has completed two workshops with a semi final report to be presented on Sept 9th and the final presentation on September 30th. The commission discussed the opportunities of the various economic development projects in front of the zoning & planning commission over the past and coming month. Riverwalk in Sandy Hook Village, Grace Christian Church at 13 Hawleyville, Rand Whitney expansion on Edmond Road and Tractor Supply along Newtown's retail corridor, Rt. 25. There's a town meeting tom approve the CIP funding for FFH demolition of Canaan House, the small white residential houses and Parent Connection duplex renovation on Monday, August 18th @ 7pm. The town has received a \$150,000 grant for assessment of the Batchelder property. The EDC discussed having Rob Sibley attend an EDC meeting to provide an update on the Batchelder findings and next steps. The EDC will host 4 business seminars this fall, two from the SBA on how to start a business and another on financing a small business plus a marketing seminar and one for restaurant management. The chamber has hired a new administration assistant, which will help strengthen the Newtown Chamber. The EDC will continue to work closely with the Chamber to support local businesses.