

Jean Leonard, Chairman
NEWTOWN MUNICIPAL CENTER
3 PRIMROSE STREET
NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT 06470
TEL. (203) 270-4281
FAX (203) 270-4205
www.newtown.org



The Newtown Economic Development Commission held a regular meeting on
Tuesday, December 15, 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 Economic Development Commission

PRESENT: Bob Rau, Wes Thompson, Paul Fadus, Al Roznicki, Mike Boyle, Matt Mahlik, Jean Leonard

Also Present: Betsy Paynter, Economic Development Coordinator

NOT PRESENT: Elana Bertram and Marty Gersten

Jean Leonard called the meeting to order at 7:10pm

Public Participation: No public participation

Reports/Discussion/Action

MOTION: Paul Fadus motioned to approve the minute from the November 17th EDC meeting, Al Roznicki second, all in favor.

There was discussion regarding 2016 EDC chair and co-chair. Jean Leonard offered to stay on as chair, a co-chair was needed since Elana Bertram's term has expired.

MOTION: Al Roznicki made a motion to nominate Bob Rau as co-chair of the EDC, Mike Boyle second the motion, all in favor. Bob Rau will be the EDC co-chair for 2016.

The commission will have two vacancies in early January 2016. The current members reviewed an interested candidate request and had discussion of background/experience of ideal EDC candidates. The Commission determined candidates should have interest in business development, commercial banking, commercial real estate or running a business. Also, candidates should have available time and commit to working on projects through sub committees and grow Newtown's Grand List.

2016 Sub committees were discussed. The following groups were created:

- Business Development (ribbon cuttings, welcome packet, business outreach, Newtown Chamber liaison, workshops/seminars, library liaison, SCORE/SBDC) - Jean Leonard, Matt Mahlik
- Business Networking (SHOP & Stony Hill Four Corners liaisons, report activity to EDC monthly) Paul Fadus and Mike Boyle
- Commercial Real Estate (examine inventory, work with local commercial real estate brokers) - Matt Mahlik, Paul Fadus, Bob Rau
- Government Agencies (EDC liaison to Newtown & Borough Zoning, water/sewer, Inland/wetlands) - Wes Thompson, Bob Rau, Al Roznicki

- Cultural Arts (help grow cultural arts as an economic driver, liaison between EDC and Cultural Arts groups) Bob Rau, Jean Leonard, Paul Fadus

Betsy presented her coordinator's report. December enewsletter was released; February 2016 is the next edition. In early January, Mike, Paul and Betsy will meet with SHOP and Dan Cruson to discuss the "Museum on the Streets" program for Sandy Hook Village and entry signs for both exit 10 and exit 11. Betsy is working with the Booth library to help grow their business resources. The library is offering a monthly "Brown Bag lunch" speakers series in 2016 for local entrepreneurs, at home businesses and small business owners. EDC is also partnering with the library for a January 27th seminar, highlighting all their resources available to business owners. Wes Thompson is working with the Farmer's Market group to help enhance their market for spring 2016 kick off. Newtown will host an informational Housing seminar on January 26th @ 7pm at the Booth Library. Partnership for Strong Communities and CERC will be presenters. Newtown is applying for a \$500,000 STEAP grant to create and possibly install a streetscape for the Hawleyville Business District. Paul Fadus will draft and submit a letter of support from the EDC to accompany the grant application. A Newtown/Sandy Hook Restaurant week is in the preliminary design phases for October 2016. Newtown EDC to host a Manufacturer's Breakfast in April 2016.

Commission discussed the EDC budget and CIP for 2016. EDC's budget is a line item in the Planning Department budget. EDC's 2015 budget is \$16,000 to cover marketing, outreach, program development.

Jean Leonard is working on Strategic Plan and will have edit recommendations for next meeting. EDC to present updated Economic Development five year Strategic Plan to Board of Selectmen early 2016.

The commission reviewed Tractor Supply's Business tax incentive application. Based on their proposed development plans and Newtown's Incentive policy, they're eligible for a 54% abatement for three years maximum. Today, the property generates \$7,377 in tax annually. With Tractor Supply's proposed development, the property would generate approximately \$111,062 tax annually. With the abatement, Tractor Supply would pay \$55,072 annually for three years and generate approximately 20 jobs.

MOTION: Matt Mahlik made a motion to accept the tax abatement of 54% for three years maximum. Wes Thompson second the motion, all in favor. The application will be forwarded to the Board of Selectman, Board of Finance and the Legislative Council in January for their review/approvals.

MOTION: Jean Leonard motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm, Mike Boyle second, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Betsy Paynter

It's not just business as usual @ your library!

Small Business Open House---*Wednesday, January 27--8:00-9:00 a.m.* Learn about new initiatives and resources at the Cyrenius H. Booth Library to serve small businesses, home-based workers, and entrepreneurs in Newtown, including: monthly Brown Bag Business Hour of networking and educational opportunities; business meeting space featuring Skype and other virtual communication tools; the Virtual Small Business Development Center; many print and online business resources; and the product development potential of the library's 3D printer and maker space area. Coffee and light refreshments will be served.

Brown Bag Business Hour---*Second Tuesday of the month from 12:00-1:00 p.m.* in the library's Meeting Room. Eat, learn, and network! Join others in the entrepreneurial, home office, and small business community for a fun and informative hour. Bring your lunch and business cards; no registration necessary. January 12; February 9; March 8; April 12; May 10; June 14.

Make the Library Your Office! ---The Reference office is now available for individuals and small groups to use for quiet work, in-person and virtual meetings. Scheduling is flexible, with times available evenings and weekends during regular library hours. Also available in the Reference department: wireless printing; scanner; copier; public fax; ten PCs for public use; online and print business resources.

Virtual Small Business Development Center--- Virtual SBDC enables entrepreneurs and small business owners to access the resources of the Connecticut SBDC via the Internet in real time face-to-face conversations with a business advisor using Google Hangouts. Clients can have a virtual meeting – without the need for either client or advisor to travel distances. The program allows clients to share documents, work on applications for funding, and update progress, all with the security required to ensure confidentiality.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE C.H. BOOTH LIBRARY REFERENCE DEPARTMENT
(203) 426-8552 or email boothref@chboothlibrary.org

