

Robert Rau, Chairman  
NEWTOWN MUNICIPAL CENTER  
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The Newtown Economic Development Commission held a regular meeting on  
Tuesday, January 19, 2016, at 7:00 pm in 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 at the next meeting.

**PRESENT:** Robert (Bob) Rau, Wes Thompson, Paul Fadus, Al Roznicki, Matt Mahlik,

**Also Present:** Betsy Paynter, Economic Development Coordinator, one member of the public and one member of the press

**NOT PRESENT:** Mike Boyle

**Bob Rau** called the meeting to order at 7:01pm

Bob Rau called for a moment of silence in respect of the sudden passing of EDC chair, Jean Leonard

**Public Participation:** No public participation

#### **Reports/Discussion/Action**

#### **MOTION:**

**Paul Fadus motioned to approve the minutes from the December 18th EDC meeting, Al Roznicki second, all in favor.**

There was discussion regarding 2016 EDC chair and co-chair positions with the passing of Jean Leonard.

#### **MOTION:**

**Al Roznicki made a motion to nominate Bob Rau as Chair of the EDC, Wes Thompson second the motion, all in favor.**

Bob Rau will be the EDC Chair.

#### **MOTION:**

**Al Roznicki made a motion to nominate Wes Thompson as Vice-Chair of the EDC, Paul Fadus second the motion, all in favor.** Wes Thompson will be the EDC Vice Chair.

The commission has three vacancies which will receive appointments in February from the Board of Selectmen.

Bob Rau discussed how the EDC can gain exposure within the community re: the various projects, events and activities they are involved/support. It was mentioned the EDC should have a quarterly updates with the local press to be sure to get the word out on the EDC happenings.

**Coordinator's Report:** February newsletter is in development. Mike, Paul and Betsy met with SHOP and Dan Cruson to discuss the "Museum on the Streets" program in Sandy Hook Village and entry signs for both exit 10 and exit 11. 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 partnering with the library for a January 27<sup>th</sup> Small Business resource 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 26<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm at the Booth Library. Partnership for Strong Communities and CERC will be presenters. A Newtown/Sandy Hook

Restaurant week is in the preliminary design phases for October 2016. Betsy is looking for an EDC subcommittee to help with this event. Newtown EDC to host a Newtown Business Breakfast on April 21, 2016 at Rock Ridge Country Club. Tractor Supply Tax Incentive will be presented to BOS on 2/16 and BOF on 3/14. There's a time lapse between board meetings due to heavy agendas during budget planning. LC meeting date to be confirmed. An update to Newtown Economic Development was presented to the BOF on 1/11/16 and will be presented to LC on 1/20/16. Betsy will present the update to The Newtown Savings Bank Business Before Hours, Newtown Board of Realtors and The Newtown Rotary all in February.

Betsy mentioned the February 16<sup>th</sup> EDC meeting date is in conflict with the BOS Tractor Supply presentation. The EDC decided to move their February meeting to the following evening, Wednesday, February 17, 2016 in meeting room #3 in the Newtown Municipal Center.

**Sub Committees:**

**Business Development** – Matt attended the library's first Brown Bag lunch seminar. The library is hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month a "Brown Bag Lunch & Learn" speaker from noon – 1pm. This is a great opportunity for business owners to learn and network. Matt is preparing a welcome letter from the EDC for a new welcome packet being prepared from EDC with the Newtown Chamber.

**Business Networking:** Paul reported on the Museum in the Streets meeting with SHOP and Dan Cruson. There's a February follow up meeting scheduled. Sandy Hook Village is rich in history from General store, post office, Irish settlers, railroad construction, fabric firehouse development, etc. This program would be an attraction to the village for people to walk the streetscape and learn the history of Sandy Hook Village. Paul visited the program in Ridgefield and provided images to the committee.

**Commercial Real Estate:** Matt to accompany Betsy to the Western CT Commercial Brokers meeting this month.

**Government Agencies:** Members to assist Tractor Supply through their tax incentive process. EDC would like to meet with the Borough to see how they work more closely with them as Newtown Central Business District is within the Borough.

**Cultural Arts:** Bob and Paul attended the Culturla Arts January meeting and offered assistance to the group as they move forward in obtaining a home.

Bob Rau is working on Strategic Plan and will have edit recommendations for next meeting. There were discussions re: a strategic research panel from local experts in commercial real estate, development and commercial lending. It was decided to set up a strategic panel meeting to provide input into the EDC strategic plan.

**MOTION: Matt Mahlik motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:15pm, Paul Fadus second, all in favor.**

Respectfully submitted by Betsy Paynter