

Robert Rau, Chairman
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The Newtown Economic Development Commission held a regular meeting on
Tuesday, February 17, 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: Bob Rau, Wes Thompson, Paul Fadus, Al Roznicki, Matt Mahlik, Mike Boyle

Also Present: Betsy Paynter, Economic Development Coordinator, new EDC appointees: Amy Dent and Tom Roe and one member of the press

Bob Rau called the meeting to order at 7:03pm

Public Participation: Amy Dent and Tom Roe are newly appointed members of the EDC. They were introduced to the commission and will be sworn in later this month as active members for the March EDC meeting. Dana Trado is also a new member, but was not in attendance.

Reports/Discussion/Action

MOTION:

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

Chairman's Report:

Bob Rau discussed the recent Economic Development Update presentation to the Board of Realtors February meeting. The group appreciated the update of economic development activity. This information is valuable as they "sell Newtown" to potential residents. The EDC will continue to provide updates to the residential realtors and work closely together.

Sub Committee Reports:

Business Development:

Matt Mahlik discussed the Newtown Chamber and the EDC are preparing a welcome packet for new businesses opening in Newtown. He also mentioned the Chamber and Rotary's Newtown Business of the Year event – they are accepting nominations now.

Business Networking:

Paul Fadus provided an update on the development of the Museum in the Streets program in Sandy Hook Village. A committee from SHOP and the EDC are working with Dan Cruson to create a walking history with plaques in front of key historical buildings and views in Sandy Hook Village. The next meeting, Patrick Cardon from Museum in the Streets will present the program. There was conversation to include Newtown Historical Society to see if they would be interested in plaques too.

Commercial Real Estate:

The Strategic Planning committee will gather information from local commercial real estate brokers and developers to provide insights as the EDC puts together their 2016 Strategic Plan.

Government Agencies:

Wes Thompson is working with the Farmer's Market in efforts to help their group enhance their market for the spring.

Wes has submitted a letter to the P&Z for considerations. The EDC will meet with the Borough to offer assistance with business development and communication. Many businesses are located within the Borough business district.

Cultural Arts:

There was discussion about the Community Center, Plymouth Hall and the Edmond Town Hall as contributors to growing the Cultural Arts presence in Newtown. Betsy has set up a spring opportunity for the EDC and Cultural Arts Commission to meet with the new Director of Culture from the state of CT.

Coordinator's Report: February newsletter is due to go out this week. Exit signs for both exit 10 and exit 11 are in discussions with DOT. The library and EDC have partnered with CTSBDC to have a business advisor at the Booth Library on Thursday afternoons to provide support and resources to local business owners and entrepreneurs. The housing seminar was informative providing trends. A link to the housing statics are located on the newtown.org website under current activity. EDC is recruiting sponsors for the Newtown/Sandy Hook Restaurant Week to be held the last week of September.. Newtown EDC to host a Newtown Business & Manufacturing Breakfast on April 28th at Rock Ridge Country Cub. Tractor Supply Tax Incentive will be presented to BOS on 3/7, BOF on 3/14 and LC on 3/23. An update to Newtown Economic Development will be presented to The Newtown Savings Bank Business Before Hours, and The Newtown Rotary all in February.

Wes Thompson provided an edited version of the EDC 2016 Strategic Plan draft for commissioner's feedback by early March.

MOTION: Paul Fadus motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm, Matt Mahlik second, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Betsy Paynter