

Robert Rau, Chairman
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MINUTES

Newtown Economic Development Commission held at regular meeting on April 19, 2016 in Meeting Room 3 at 7:30pm at the Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose St, Newtown, CT 06470

These minutes are subject to the approval of the Economic Development Commission at the next meeting, May 17, 2016.

Members Present: Bob Rau, Wes Thompson, Paul Fadus, Al Roznicki, Mike Boyle, Matt Mihalcik, Amy Dent, Bill May, Dana Trado

Also Present: Laura Lerman, Newtown Cultural Arts Commission, Betsy Paynter, Economic Development Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 7:31pm. Mr. Rau asked for approval of the minutes from the February and March EDC meetings. Bill May motioned to approve both minutes, Matt Mihalcik second, all in favor.

Public Participation/Reports:

Laura Lerman from the Cultural Arts Commission provided an overview of the commission's work. She explained they support multiple creative efforts in town including art shows at the municipal center and the Booth Library, the Arts festival activity during the month of September, scholarships to art groups within town and the Poet Laureate to name a few.

The EDC would like to grow and support the presence of cultural arts within in town and assist the Cultural arts commission in this effort. Ms. Lerman said the art groups need places to practice, perform and store equipment.

Mr. May provided a recap of DECD's regional outreach regarding the state's programs available to assist local business owners. Much of the information is located on the EDC website, www.newtown.org.

Mr. Trado discussed his efforts of creating a combined list of businesses in town with their contact info, specifically emails addresses for communication. Ms. Paynter mentioned the Board of Realtors is interested in having a marketing tool that would help sell Newtown. The EDC will research rebranding the town for marketing both commercial and a community to live.

Mr. Mihalcik provided an update on the library's brown bag lunches and the national small business week seminars and webinars at the library along with the Newtown Chamber hiring their new business development. The EDC continues to work closely with the library to promote their business resources and the chamber's growth and activities.

Mr. Thompson discussed the Farmer's Market which has an application in front of the P&Z. The EDC made a resolution in favor and support of the Farmer's Market zone amendment to include prepared foods. Mr. Thompson also spoke about the work he's doing with Edmond Town Hall and his involvement with their visionary sessions. The idea of incorporating a range of programming into the Edmond Town Hall business plan would help with their growth.

Mr. Rau reviewed new sub committees to help cover all areas of EDC focus: Business Support & Development and New Business Development

Economic Development Coordinator's Report:

Ms. Paynter is preparing for the Annual Newtown Manufactures and Business Breakfast later this month. She's also working with CTDOT to complete the exit sign encroachment permits and sign locations stacked with DOT approval. The sign company is creating designs for review. She's working with SHOP to determine a funding source for the Museum in the Street project for Sandy Hook Village. Restaurant week website is in development and restaurants are signing up to participate. She's working with the Newtown school district to incorporate music during the weekend of restaurant week to have various musical groups perform outside of restaurants, bringing the arts into the community event. The April/May enewsletter is in development, targeting an early May distribution. Ribbon cuttings are scheduled for Nouveau Monde, the new wine bar in Sandy Hook Village on May 3rd @ 1pm and Caste Hill Chocolates coming into the Borough, next door to Dunkin Donuts on May 10th @ 1:30pm. All are invited to attend the ribbon cuttings.

Adjournment: With no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 9:47pm

Respectfully submitted by Betsy Paynter