

MINUTES  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
July 12, 2016

PRESENT: Chairman John Allen, Commissioners Mike Knudsen, Kirk Carr, Andrea Reu and Doug Traynor

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

All stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes: A motion was made by M. Knudsen, seconded by K. Carr to approve the minutes of June 14, 2016 as submitted. The motion carried with a vote of 3 in favor and 1 abstention (A. Reu).

Public Comments: None

Correspondence: None

Guests: None

Old Business:

EDC website and mission statement draft:

- What does the Economic Development Commission do – A. Reu will wordsmith something
- Mission draft – needs more vernacular language – business person to business person

EDC recommendation to Charter Revision Commission:

- The town should be responsible to make the EDC more viable
- Consider creating a Development Corporation (to buy property and develop it themselves) which would be managed by the Economic Development Professional
- The town should plan rather than react
- A recommendation for a charter revision change to be included as the last line in 10-2 is as follows:  
“The Town shall be responsible to utilize all assets that will ensure a sound economy, minimize the tax burden and maximize the revenues on its townspeople.”

A motion was made by D. Traynor, seconded by K. Carr to approve the Charter Revision recommendation “The Town shall be responsible to utilize all assets that will ensure a sound economy, minimize that tax burden and maximize the revenues on its townspeople” and submit it to the Charter Revision Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

Business Visitations:

- Discussed visitations to business owners (tenants) or the actual property owners
- Seminars will begin in September
- All businesses will be notified about the seminars via hand delivered invitations, Harbor News article, e-mail blast

Survey:

- Send a quick survey to property owners with the following questions:
  - How’s your business – getting better/ getting worse
  - Your biggest challenge(s):
    1. Workforce
    2. Taxes
    3. Regulations
    4. Clinton’s economy
  - What do you need/ want
  - Are you aware of the Economic Development Commission – how could it help you

- These questions will be reviewed by a business owner and finalized by D. Traynor
- Postcards will be sent to 250 property owners (selected by K. Carr) notifying them to go on-line to survey monkey to participate in the survey
- The responses to the survey should be submitted by September 15, 2016

A motion was made by M. Knudsen, seconded by D. Traynor to approve the necessary funds for the printing and mailing of 250 postcards to business property owners. The motion carried unanimously.

Cecil Group Report Distribution:

- It will cost \$500 to print 10 copies of the Cecil Group's report with updated information
- Need to determine where to go with these copies

1630 House summer schedule:

- Kids Konnection has two student actors working Thursdays 4p to 8p and Saturdays 12p to 4p
- The cost is \$800 for the summer

Capital Expenditure Request:

- A jitney bus was discussed
- Ecotourism – buy or build something
- Food service jitney to make deliveries to marine people

At the September meeting the commission should look at the big plan/ big picture and review what and how Branford did their economic development. Push planning and people will follow.

Consider a Regional Development Corporation or Shoreline Development Corporation

When you develop a corporation it needs to be bonded, there are attorney fees to write the language and a Town Manager is best to be in charge of the corporation.

Invite EDC knowledgeable residents to speak to the EDC. J. Allen will speak to H. Teskey to invite him to a meeting.

New Business:

- Discussed the Friendly property as well as the properties on either side
- Discussed the Unilever property and the plan the town currently has to develop it
- Discussed the brochure Branford/Guilford distributes at Action Sport
  - A. Reu will contact the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce and In a Flash Studio

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy McDermott  
Clerk