

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 10/12/10
TIME: 5:10pm
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

**Town of Seymour
Economic Development Department**

**Minutes
Tuesday, October 5, 2010 – 7:00 PM
Flaherty Room – Seymour Town Hall**

Members present: Jon Szuch, Michael H. Horbal, Ron Balabon, Marietta Sabetta, Ted Holly, Joe Cass, and Rosalie Averill.

ITEM #1 Call Meeting to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Jon Szuch.

ITEM #2 Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Jon Szuch.

ITEM #3 First Selectman Comment.

There was no report from the First Selectman.

ITEM #4 Public Comment

Howard Enquist stated that his property is not listed at this time. He is in the process of cleaning up the site, but there is nothing going on with it. Chairman Szuch suggested that he get in contact with our State legislators and find out about Brownfield monies that may be available.

ITEM #5 Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes – September 7, 2010

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2010 meeting with the following correction was made by Rosalie Averill and seconded by Marietta Sabetta. The motion was carried unanimously (7-0).

• Page 4 –Paragraph 5 last sentence should read *Michael Horbal stated because of the economy Haynes has possibly put any future projects on hold.*

ITEM #6 Update on River Falls project – Russ Smith.

Mr. Smith was not in attendance but Chairman Szuch stated that the front of the building has been torn down but there is still a lot of demolition work that needs to be done. The road has been reopened. Mr. Horbal stated that Mr. Smith is on the agenda to make a presentation at the First Selectmen's meeting. Chairman Szuch asked if anyone knew when the rest of the building will be taken down but no one had that information. Mr. Holly stated that he thought they were waiting for the proper demolition permits and that an engineer plan was necessary as to how the building would be taken down. Mr. Horbal moved that the item be tabled to the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Holly and carried unanimously (7-0).

ITEM #7 Continue discussion Broad Street Park Project and possible allocation of funds (Take Possible Action).

Chairman Szuch stated that Al Yagovane had been asked to come to the meeting and bring his receipts from the project but he was not in attendance. Mr. Horbal stated that he met with him and discussed some changes that need to be made to the drawings. He stated that he also met with a sales representative from the bench company but the official committee has not met yet. Mrs. Averill moved that the item be tabled to the November meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Holly and carried unanimously (7-0). Chairman Szuch stated that he will also invite a representative from TonSha, the marketing company who is preparing the brochure to the November meeting.

ITEM #8 ED Director, Assistant's and/or EDC Chairman's Report.

Chairman Szuch stated that he has heard that Auto Zone will be going into the former Walgreens site from the NH Register when they called him asking for an opinion. He said he then heard about it from Mark Thompson the Chairman Board of Finance who said that it was discussed at his 9/28/10 meeting by First Selectman Paul Roy. The EDC was not aware of this at all as it was discussed at a Board of Finance meeting and the EDC members felt that it should have been discussed with the EDC so that they are apprised of what is going on in town. Chairman Szuch felt that there is a lack of protocol on how things are relayed to boards and commissions in town. The members felt that there is a lack of communication regarding issues that pertain to the EDC. Mr. Horbal stated that he met with the First Selectman about what was going on with Auto Zone and that the EDC was not informed about it and they should be made aware of such things. At this time it is not certain whether they are actually coming or have just expressed an interest in the site. Mr. Horbal suggested that a letter be sent to the First Selectman (letter to be sent by Commissioner Sabetta by mid-October) explaining that the EDC is embarrassed to find out about things from the newspapers and ask if there is any policy in writing as how information is to be disseminated to the various boards. Ms. Sabetta stated that she would draft that letter to the First Selectman and Board of Selectmen.

Chairman Szuch stated that the members had been given information regarding the Preservation Place Grant Program and the deadline for submitting the application is 11/19/10. He felt that the members should come up with three or four suggestions that the grant could be applied for. They discussed using the funds to clean up along the river. They also discussed adding some aesthetics to River Street with landscaping and sidewalks. Mr. Balabon suggested listing restoration work on the façade and marquee of the Strand Theater. The Commission decided that they would suggest façade and marquee restoration for the Strand Theater; landscaping, sidewalks and aesthetic improvements on River Street as well as relocation and restoration of the Seymour Manufacturing former corporate office cupola. This cupola was taken down and was to be placed at one of the parks in town. Mrs. Averill suggested the possibility of using the funds for a study on the re-use of the old Anna LoPresti School. Chairman Szuch

stated that he will send the list of recommendations back to the First Selectman. Mr. Horbal distributed portions of a book on the Seymour Centennial 1850-1950. He stated that he found it very interesting and felt that the members would enjoy reading about the history of Seymour.

ITEM #9 – Old Business

Mrs. Averill asked the status of the video and Chairman Szuch stated that it should be done in November and be ready for distribution in 2011. He also noted that the CVS should or may be opening later this year which is up to CVS corporate.

The members discussed the proposed restaurant on Roosevelt Drive by Tony Mavulli, owner of Villa Bianca. Mr. Horbal who represents Mr. Mavulli on this project for the design stated that they have not heard from the WPCA and will be going to the ZBA for a variance. Mr. Horbal and Mr. Holly then recused themselves completely from discussing this matter and left the meeting room. The Commission felt that it would be a good idea to send a letter to the ZBA expressing their approval of the application for the variance and to encourage the ZBA to grant it. They felt that the renovation of this house into a restaurant will be a welcome addition to that area of town and reflect favorably on the entire town. Mrs. Averill moved that the Commission send a letter to the ZBA encouraging them to grant the needed variance and express their approval of the project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cass and carried unanimously (5-0 – Mr. Horbal and Mr. Holly did not vote on this motion). Mr. Horbal and Mr. Holly then returned to the meeting.

ITEM #10 New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

ITEM #11 Correspondence

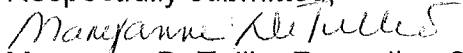
Mr. Balabon and Ms. Sabetta sent letters to the First Selectman and Board of Selectmen regarding what happened at the 09/07/10 Board of Selectmen meeting (copies attached). The members expressed their displeasure at the way the situation was handled and felt that all members should have been allowed to attend the meeting that evening. Chairman Szuch noted that the Board of Selectmen did vote unanimously to create a sub-committee to evaluate the ED Director position but some members did not explain their position nor speak at all rather simply voted. The EDC members felt that it is extremely important to get someone in that position as it will only benefit the town. They felt that there is no one to speak to anyone interested in relocating to Seymour and work toward economic development in the town. Chairman Szuch stated that he is hopeful that this will be accomplished within a reasonable time as assessed by the sub-committee formed by the First Selectman which has not even met yet as of the date of this EDC meeting and hopes the position will be filled.

Mr. Horbal stated that he received a call from a real estate broker who was looking for 20,000 s.f. of industrial space and he referred him to T. Haynes.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Averill, seconded by Mr. Holly and carried unanimously (7-0).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. by Chairman Jon Szuch.

Respectfully submitted,



Maryanne DeTullio, Recording Secretary