

Town of Seymour
Economic Development Commission

Minutes

Tuesday – April 7, 2009 @ 7:00pm
Flaherty Room – Town Hall

Members Present: Ron Balabon, Michael H. Horbal, Rosalie Averill, Joe Cass, Ted Holly, Nancy Onofrio, Recording Secretary

Members Not-present: Jon Szuch, Marietta Sabetta

ITEM # 1 Call Meeting in Order.

Meeting called in order at 6:55pm by Vice Chairman Ron Balabon.

ITEM # 2 Pledge of Allegiance.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Vice Chairman Ron Balabon.

ITEM # 3 First Selectman's Comment.

First Selectman Robert J. Koskelowski not present at the moment.

No action taken.

ITEM # 4 Approval of March 10, 2009 Minutes.

Motion to approve minutes with the following correction:

Reflect in the minutes Ron Balabon and Joe Cass where present and Rosalie Averill was absent.

Motion: Joe Cass

Second: Ted Holly

Vote: Yes-4 (R. Balabon, T. Holly, J. Cass, M. H. Horbal) No-0 1-Abstain (R. Averill)

Disqualified-0 Absent-2 (J. Szuch, M. Sabetta)

Motion carries.

ITEM # 5 ED Director Report.

Director John Criscuolo not present.

No action taken.

ITEM # 6 Continued EDC review and discussion of current zone classifications and boundaries.

The Commission reviewed the letter to be sent to P&Z drafted by commissioner Michael H.

Horbal and made a few changes. Letter is to be sent to all P&Z members along with a copy of the maps explaining the proposed changes. The Board of Selectmen will be copied on the package as well.

Motion to have letter go to P&Z with accompanying maps dated January 20, 2009.

Motion: Rosalie Averill

Second: Ted Holly

Vote: Yes-4 (R. Balabon, T. Holly, R. Averill, J. Cass) No-0

Abstained-1 (M. H. Horbal) Disqualified-0 Absent-2 (J. Szuch, M. Sabetta)

Motion carries.

ITEM # 7 Draft letter to First Selectman as ED Director: consideration for proposal updating zoning to benefit the Town economically.

Commission decided to address the letter directly to P&Z. A copy will be sent to the Board of Selectman as well as First Selectman Robert J. Koskelowski.

No action taken.

ITEM # 8 Business updates.

A list of all new businesses registered with Town Clerk over the last few months was distributed at the meeting for the board to review and to be informed.

Secretary's Report:

Housatonic Wire - called owner Alex Budzinski for an update. He's looking to develop the land with a friend. The project is in the initial planning stages, possibility of a mixed-use building and some apartments. Will continued to stay in touch with Mr. Budzinski for updates on the progress of the project.

Seymour Lumber – called realtor Lou Proto for an update on the property. He has received many inquiries and is currently working with a national fast food chain to work out a deal.

Website – training for the website is to begin the week of April 13, 2009. The site is expected to go live by the end of April or the beginning of May at the latest.

New CVS Plaza – in frequent contact with developer Lou Regina. The project is still moving forward. Awaiting DOT's approval of traffic plans. Also working on planning a car wash in the back of the Naugatuck's Savings Bank.

New Walgreen's Plaza – project is still moving forward.

New Haven Copper – update on the retaining wall, Mike Bellotti, Olin contact, received two options for repairing the wall from Town Engineer, currently reviewing and in the process of deciding which option is more cost effective.

Rogol's Building – received many inquires over the last month about the space available, someone is looking at buying/leasing the whole corner and renovating it.

Inquiry – possible bio lab to relocate in the Industrial Park.

CMSC – looked into membership benefits, non-profit organization focused on revitalizing historic downtown economically. Already belong to the organization through the Valley Chamber of Commerce, need to check with Bill Purcell. Will contact other Towns to get an opinion on the benefits offered by CMSC.

Tri-Town Plaza – Walmart is leasing the Ames building while renovating the Shelton store.

Kevin Cox – property located on Rt. 67 across from Webster Bank, land has been cleared and will be leveled in the next year or so. This site is ideal to attract future businesses in town.

Milford – a few weeks ago factory in Milford, Milford Fabricating, burned down, Commissioner Michael H. Horbal suggested we get in touch with the business to see if we can assist them in the process of relocating.

ITEM # 9 Chairman Report.

Vice Chair Ron Balabon makes a comment:

He's very disappointed to see the position of Economic Development Director not being funded by the Town. All members present are in agreement with the Vice Chair.

Last month, Commissioner Michael H. Horbal attended the Downtown Association meeting to stress upon the idea to have a representative come to the EDC monthly meetings to keep us informed on what they are doing and to stay informed on what the Commission is working on, in the effort to produce a better downtown.

No one from the association was present at the meeting.

Motion to send a letter to the Downtown Business Association urging them to send a representative to the EDC monthly meetings.

Motion: Michael H. Horbal

The Downtown Business Association has organized a Seymour Clean-Up day to give the downtown area a face lift. The clean up will take place on May 17 and it will involve picking up garbage, sweeping, etc. Refreshments for all volunteer will be provided after the clean-up is over.

Letter to be sent to former Economic Development Director thanking him for his dedication and for serving as a volunteer Director since his resignation back in December.

* EDC would like an update on grants, stimulus package funds, and anything the Town as in the works. Secretary will provide a list for the May 5th meeting.

Commissioner Horbal retracts the motion to send a letter to the Downtown Business Association.

ITEM # 10 Public Comment.
No public comment.

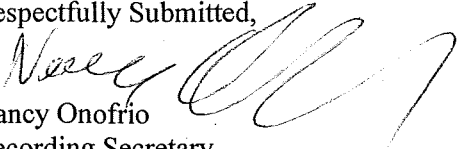
ITEM # 11 Correspondence Update.
Following articles where attached to the agenda:

- Valley towns to repair bridges, road signs with stimulus funds, New Haven Register, March 14, 2009
- Alternative energy considered, Connecticut Post, March 11, 2009
- Flags pay tribute to war dead, Connecticut Post, March 31, 2009

ITEM # 12 Adjournment.
Motion to Adjourn at 8:10pm.

Motion: Rosalie Averill Second: Joe Cass
Vote: Yes-4 (R. Balabon, T. Holly, R. Averill, J. Cass, M.H.Horbal) No-0
Abstained-0 Disqualified-0 Absent-2 (J. Szuch, M. Sabetta)

Respectfully Submitted,


Nancy Onofrio
Recording Secretary