

Town of Seymour Economic Development Commission

Special Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday – February 4, 2009
Flaherty Room – Seymour Town Hall

Members Present: Jon Szuch, Ted Holly, Michael H. Horbal, Joe Cass, Marietta Sabetta, Ron Balabon, John Criscuolo Director, Nancy Onofrio Recording Secretary.

Members Not-present: Rosalie Averill.

Others Present: Robert J. Koskelowski, First Selectman, George Temple, Town Counsel joined meeting in progress.

ITEM # 1 Call Meeting in Order.

Meeting called in order at 7:00pm by Chairman Jon Szuch.

ITEM #2 Pledge of Allegiance.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Jon Szuch.

ITEM # 3 First Selectman Comments.

First Selectman Robert J. Koskelowski not present at the moment.
No action taken.

ITEM # 4 Approval of January 8, 2009 Minutes.

Motion to approve minutes with following corrections:

Commissioner Michael H. Horbal suggested the minutes reflect the times Ron Balabon and Joe Cass joined the meeting:

Ron Balabon joins the meeting at 6:55pm.

Joe Cass joins the meeting at 7:00pm.

Will be added in the body of the minutes.

Motion: Michael H. Horbal

Second: Marietta Sabetta

Vote: 6-Yes (R. Balabon, J. Szuch, M. H. Horbal, T. Holly, J. Cass, M. Sabetta) 0-No 0-Abstain 0-Disqualified 1-Not present (R. Averill)

Motion carries.

ITEM # 5 ED Director Report.

Director states he will attend Board of Selectman Meeting tonight to recommend Economic Development Secretary to take over as Director. He believes it does not make sense to keep a secretary without a Director. He points out the Secretary has been running the department since December. His recommendations to the BOS will be the following:

- Secretary has attended every training alongside Director
- Secretary has met all developers
- Secretary and Director have shares all files and information

Director believes it would make much sense, instead of seeing this position go away, or keep it part-time, to eliminate the secretary position and have the current secretary take over the duties of Director. Mr. Criscuolo states he has not been able to keep up with everything or dedicate much time to Town matters due to his new job. Director has discussed this with the First Selectman.

Mr. Criscuolo is keeping in touch with developers:

- Haynes: he spoke to Kathy Eckstrom who said they are having a tough time like everyone else. If the Town gets any of the stimulus money, perhaps for the senior housing, they might be able to bid on some town projects.
- New CVS: talked to Lou Regina who is waiting for CVS to give the ok if they are still interested in developing the site off Rt. 67.
- Housatonic Wire: keeping in touch with owner Alex Budzinski by email. Secretary states the department received an inquiry this week about the site. She referred the contact to owner. This site is still being marketed by the owner.
- Former Seymour Lumber site: the listing agent has a few people looking at the site, national chains but nothing definite.
- Tri-Town: returning real estate agency, Krasney & Associates, is listing Tri-Town Plaza. Communication with the alleged owner Ron Spector continues to be a challenge. Not really sure who owns the property and who is in control to make decisions.
- 26 Main Street: new tavern to open at the end of February. Secretary working with new business owner, Kerry Rogers, to assist in any way possible.
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First Selectman Robert J. Koskelowski and Town Counsel George Temple joined the meeting.

ITEM # 6 Report: Results for 2008 EDC Questionnaire.

Economic Development Secretary presents to the board the findings of the questionnaire. A copy of the presentation is attached.

The Commission would like the results to be circulated to all boards and commissions.

ITEM # 7 EDC review and discuss current zone classifications and boundaries.

Commissioner Michael H. Horbal passed out a packet consisting of an abstract from the Seymour Zoning Regulations with zoning definitions and different specifications for building in each zone and a series of maps to show existing zones primarily along Route 67 and Route 34. Mr. Horbal consulted with Town Planner Bob Looker to have this be a collaborative effort. The commission will have a month to review the packet and then discuss it at next EDC meeting.

Motion to move scheduled March meeting to March 10th, 2009.

Motion: Mike H. Horbal

Second: Marietta Sabetta

Vote: 6-Yes (R. Balabon, J. Szuch, M. H. Horbal, T. Holly, J. Cass, M. Sabetta) 0-No 0-Abstain 0-Disqualified 1-Not present (R. Averill)

ITEM # 8 Chairman Report.
Chairman Jon Szuch

ITEM # 9 Public Comment.
No public comment.

ITEM # 10 Correspondence Update.

The following letter of resignation from John Criscuolo, Economic Development Director to First Selectman Robert J. Koskelowski was read into record by Chairman Jon Szuch:

Bob,

As we discussed I have accepted a position as labor relations representative with Yale University. My start date will be December 15, 2008. I will continue in my position as Economic Development Director for Seymour until a replacement can be appointed. During the week of December 15th I will use vacation time for the week, and then that weekend come to town hall to work on EDC related business. I will continue to report to town hall one night per week and when needed on the weekends to complete any pending work. I will continue in this manner on a voluntary basis. If satisfactory with you, my

last day as a paid employee would be December 24, 2008, as I will use remaining accumulated time to reach that date.

I will remain in contact with Nancy at town hall during the week and will return phone calls and address issues, as needed. Also, until my replacement is appointed I would like to continue to utilize the town's laptop computer. This will allow me to work on pending projects.

As I had mentioned I had sought the Yale position prior to beginning my position with Seymour, and was somewhat surprised when I was contacted for an interview ten months later. The opportunity that I am being offered is both financially and professionally too good to not accept. It has been almost a year that I have been in the Director's position and feel that much has been accomplished. We have two new plazas being planned, Walgreen's is proceeding with their construction, and CVS is potentially relocating, to name a few of our successes. During this time an entire department was constructed from the ground up, with a new website about ready to be unveiled. I have met with four large scale developers who have expressed their interest in Seymour's future and I believe 2009 will be a busy year for economic development in town.

Thank you for the opportunity to have continued my service to Seymour, which began when I was eighteen years old. I appreciate the confidence and support you have shown me over the year.

Truly,

John Criscuolo

The following article where also included in the agenda:

- Seymour Officials vow to hold line on taxes 01/07/09
- Rt. 67 retail plan gains zone change 01/12/09
- Seymour submits \$15M 'shovel-ready' list 01/15/09
- Ansonia pushes local shopping 01/17/09
- Shopping Center planned in Seymour 01/20/09

Motion to recommend Nancy Onofrio for the position of Economic Development Director

Motion: Marietta Sabetta

Second: Ted Holly

Vote: 6-Yes (J. Szuch, T. Holly, J. Cass, M. Sabetta, M. H. Horbal, R. Balabon) 0-No 0-Abstain 0-Disqualified 1-Not Present (R. Averill)

Motion Carries.

ITEM # 11 Adjournment.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:23pm.

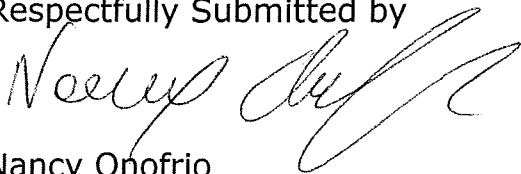
Motion: Ron Balabon

Second: Marietta Sabetta

Vote: 6-Yes (J. Szuch, T. Holly, J. Cass, M. Sabetta, M. H. Horbal, R. Balabon) 0-No 0-Abstain 0-Disqualified 1-Not Present (R. Averill)

Motion Carries.

Respectfully Submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Onofrio", written over a horizontal line.

Nancy Onofrio
Recording Secretary