

Town of Seymour Economic Development Commission

*Revised Version
September 8, 2008*

Minutes
Tuesday – August 5, 2008
Flaherty Room

Members Present: Jon Szuch, Ted Holly, Marietta Sabetta, Rosalie Averill, Joe Cass, Nancy Onofrio Recording Secretary.

Members Not Present: Michael H. Horbal, Ron Balabon.

Others Present: None.

- Meeting called to order by Chairman Jon Szuch at 7:05pm.
- Pledge of Allegiance led by Jon Szuch.

ITEM # 3 First Selectman Comments

First Selectman Robert J. Koskelowski not present.

No action taken.

ITEM # 4 Approval of July 1, 2008 Minutes.

Motion to approve minutes with following corrections:

At the end of first paragraph add:

* Billboard will highlight the number of businesses and restaurants that are located downtown without name recognition. Motion to fund for the first month was with condition the downtown website be included on the billboard within six months and a copy of the executed lease between the leasee and the lessor to be submitted to the Board.

In the last paragraph:

* Also, members were informed of a Beacon Falls developer planning to build a large scale retail/office and residential development in Beacon Falls, which included the town swapping 53 acres of land to move the project forward.

Motion: Rosalie Averill

Second: Marietta Sabetta

Vote: 3-Yes (R. Averill, M. Sabetta, J. Szuch) 0-No 2-Abstain (T. Holly, J. Cass) 0-Disqualified 2-Not present (R. Balabon, M. H. Horbal)

Motion carries.

ITEM # 5 ED Director Report

John Criscuolo, Economic Development Director, is not present. Director will submit August report next month. Nancy Onofrio, EDD Secretary, noted that on a daily basis letters go out to restaurants, chains, etc. The department is being much more aggressive in soliciting business to open up in town. The phones have been ringing much more inquiring about sites available in town.

Discussion about the different vacant sites in town. The Board came up with the following list of people to contact and invite to the next EDC meeting:

- RIVER STREET
- HOUSATONIC WIRE
- SEYMOUR LUMBER
- NEW HAVEN COPPER
- HAYNES
- DOT (about condition of Route 67)

EDD will send monthly letters to all of the above to be kept informed about what is going on. The Board wants to assist businesses in Town but communication and collaboration is necessary.

ITEM # 6 - Discuss and Finalize 2008 EDC Questionnaire.

Discussion about the questionnaire led to the following tentative questions:

1. What do you think of the availability of the Public Transportation system in Seymour?
 - a. Not enough
 - b. Just about right
2. Regarding the above question which of the following services do you think needs improvement? (circle all that apply)
 - a. Valley Transit District
 - b. CT Transit Bus
 - c. Metro North train schedule
 - d. Commuter parking
3. What do you think of the Town of Seymour's present recreational facilities?
 - a. Not enough
 - b. Just about right
 - c. Need more

4. In regard to question #3 what town owned and operated recreational facilities would you like to have? (circle all that apply)
 - a. Public swimming pool
 - b. Public tennis courts
 - c. Public basketball courts
 - d. Public dog park
5. In regard to question #4 would you support an increase in taxes to pay for additional recreational services?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
6. Should Seymour develop more Commercial and Retail Zones?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not Sure
7. Are you in favor of more Commercial and Retail development along Routes 8, 34, and 67?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not Sure
8. Which distance do you feel most comfortable in traveling from your home for services in each direction?
 - a. 4-8 miles
 - b. 9-16 miles
 - c. 17 miles and beyond
9. What types of retail stores would you like to see locate to Seymour? (circle all that apply)
 - a. Clothing
 - b. Sports
 - c. Arts & crafts/Books
 - d. Electronics
 - e. Home improvement center
 - f. Family style restaurants
 - g. Grocery
 - h. Pharmacy
 - i. New larger modern post office
10. Do you think that downtown Seymour requires Aesthetic Codes for a more uniformed themes?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not Sure
11. Are you concerned about Seymour's long term ability to financially fund itself and remain solvent?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

c. Not Sure

12. Please state briefly your thoughts and comments about Seymour. Keep comments to 3 lines only and pertaining to economic development and not personal or personnel issues.

For more extensive comments please e-mail: Nancy Onofrio at nonofrio@seymourct.org

Questionnaire will be finalized in the month of September.

ITEM # 7 – Discuss two proposals for EDC Website

Board discussed the two proposals. Everyone agreed that the proposal submitted by Web Solutions was more detailed in explaining the terms of the agreement. The Worx proposal was more generic. Board decided to move forward with Web Solutions.

Motion to accept proposal from Web Solutions to begin work on Economic Development website in the amount not to exceed \$6,000.00 to be signed by Economic Director John Criscuolo and *reviewed by* Town Counsel George Temple coming out of account# 1001-410-1330-435-310, FY 2007-2008.

Motion: Rosalie Averill Second: Ted Holly
Vote: 5-Yes (R. Averill, M. Sabetta, J. Szuch, T. Holly, J. Cass) 0-
No 0-Abstain 0-Disqualified 2-Not
present (M. H. Horbal, R. Balabon)
Motion carries.

ITEM # 8 – Chairman Report

Chairman Jon Szuch commented on a few articles in the news:

- * Seymour metal plant for sale
- * Fueling a growing concern
- * Renovation at Chatfield School \$11mil, possibility to combine with LoPresti in which case the State would chip in. Chairman pointed out that the Town should look into solar panels.

ITEM # 9 – Public Comment

No public comment.

ITEM # 10 – Correspondence Update

* Reviewed financial reports for both EDC and EDD.

- July 2008 Monthly Report EDC
- July 2008 Monthly Report EDD
- June 2008 Monthly Report EDC
- List of open PO’s as of June 30, 2008 (encumbered funds)

* Letter of Nomination for Rosalie Averill to receive the Women Making a Difference in the Valley Award.

ITEM # 11 – Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 8:33pm.

Motion: Ted Holly Second: Marietta Sabetta

Vote: 5-Yes (Jon Szuch, Rosalie Averill, Ted Holly, Joe Cass, Marietta Sabetta) 0-No 0-Abstain 0-Disqualified 2-

Not Present (Michael H. Horbal, Ron Balabon)

Motion Carries.

Respectfully Submitted by

Reviewed by

Nancy Onofrio
Recording Secretary

John Criscuolo
Economic Dev. Director