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**Town of Seymour  
Economic Development Commission  
Minutes**

**Tuesday, December 1, 2015 – 6:30 PM  
Flaherty Room - Seymour Town Hall**

Members presents: Jon Szuch, Marietta Sabetta, Rosalie Averil and Christine Ailman.  
Also present Fred Messorre, Economic Development Director.

**ITEM #1 Call Meeting to Order**

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Chairman Jon Szuch.

**ITEM #2 Pledge of Allegiance**

Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Jon Szuch.

**ITEM #3 Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes – November 4, 2015**

Mrs. Averil moved to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sabetta and carried unanimously (4-0).

**ITEM #4 First Selectman Comment.**

First Selectman Kurt Miller was not in attendance at the meeting.

**ITEM #5 10 Year Strategic Planning Committee Departmental Interview with EDC**

Rory Burke and Jeff Dussetschleger from the 10 Year Strategic Planning Committee were present. Mr. Burke stated that they have been working for approximately two years to put together a 10 year strategic plan for Seymour. They have reached out to all department heads and boards and commissions for input as to what they think would be relevant to the strategic plan. He stated that he met with Mr. Messorre and has some information from him on economic development.

Ms. Sabetta stated that the Commission has not had an opportunity to discuss this as a group but she has asked the members to prepare their responses to the questions that the Committee provided.

Mr. Szuch stated that he reviewed the summary of the duties and responsibilities of the Commission and also looked at the Town charter. He stated that this Commission is an advisory board and works with other land use boards in promoting and attracting businesses to Seymour. He stated that the Commission has been working hard and wants to see the Town stabilize its economy.

Mrs. Averil stated that it seems that we are not really getting anywhere in attracting new businesses. She felt that there is a lot of potential in the Derby Avenue area and also that the Town should consider becoming a real estate investor in available properties in Town. She also felt it was important to do more for the businesses that are here now. Ms. Ailman stated that she thought that there would be more interaction with businesses that are in town and it seems that Seymour is being bypassed by new businesses. Ms. Sabetta stated that she looked at the mission statement and felt that there should be

more involvement with other boards and commissions at their meetings to enhance economic development.

Mr. Szuch stated that he felt that some of the challenges that the Commission faces is the lack of funding for the Commission as well as the department. He also stated that the Town may consider forming an economic development corporation rather than a commission. Mrs. Averil felt that there is no communication between boards and the boards need to work together. Ms. Ailman also felt that the lack of funding is a challenge in trying to get anything done. Ms. Sabetta also felt that the lack of funding is an issue and thought that having work sessions with other boards would be helpful. Mr. Messore felt that the town should create an economic development corporation and look into buying vacant properties. Mr. Dussetschleger stated that it appears that the Commission asked if the Commission receives any support from the residents. Mr. Szuch stated that the Commission had reached out to the residents via a survey but the response was not good and the general consensus was that the residents wanted to see more stores, restaurants and services available in town. Mrs. Averil felt that it should start at the top and get support from them. Mr. Szuch stated that it seems that the communication is getting in the last few years and some progress is being made. He felt that the Town needs to be marketed and need a larger budget in order to do so.

Mr. Szuch stated that he felt that some of the major issues facing the town are the lack of services available to residents. Ms. Sabetta felt that the industrial park should be rebranded as technical park. She also thought that an economic development corporation rather than a commission would be beneficial.

#### ITEM #6 Economic Development Director Update

Mr. Messore presented his report for the month of November (copy attached). He stated that the design of the signs for parking lots P4 and P5 have been approved and he has contacted Nu Age Design for the price of the signs. He stated that the sign for P4 will be two-sided and the one at P5 will be one-sided. He stated that there was an issue with the charging station and he notified contacted the company and the defective part was replaced. Mr. Messore stated that he submitted the application to the CT Main Street for the Preservation of Place grant funds. The funds will be used for art work near the Greenway in town. He stated that the Board of Finance originally denied the request for funding for Phase 1 of the Greenway but he met with them and they approved \$325,000.00 toward that project.

#### ITEM #7 Parking Signs for downtown parking lots update

This was covered under the Economic Development Director update.

#### ITEM #8 Public Comments

There was no one from the public present at the meeting.

ITEM #9 EDC Chairman's Report

Mr. Szuch stated that he had nothing new to report.

ITEM #10 Old Business - None

ITEM #11 – New Business

Ms. Ailman stated that she attended the Real Estate Trends and Outlook in the Route 8 Corridor program and presented information from that meeting.

ITEM #12 – Correspondence – None

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Sabetta, seconded by Mrs. Averil and carried unanimously (4-0).

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Maryanne DeTullio*  
Maryanne DeTullio, Recording Secretary

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**EDC NOV 2015 REPORT**

- 11/9 Spoke with Kurt Miller and Tony Caserta on ongoing Tree issues that over hang on roadways in Silvermine Industrial Park
- 11/10 Met with Pat Lombardi to tour Downtown Parking Lots 4 & 5 for new sign placement
- 11/10 Spoke with Dave Keyser regarding response to Letter from Senior Housing resident asking for Restaurant List
- 11/16 Met with resident, Jaime Brennan, inquiring on Greenway Phase 1 Bond Budget Resolution
- 11/17 Met with Tony from EVSE to remove defective Charging Station power unit
- 11/17 Submitted to CT Main St our Preservation of Place Application to Commission Artwork along the Greenway Phase 1 in collaboration with Seymour Arts & Cultural Commission and Downtown Committee
- 11/18 Attended Naugatuck River Greenway Committee Meeting at Beacon Falls Fire Department. Requested Letter of Support which was voted unanimously in support for our Ct Main St Preservation of Place Grant application
- 11/19 EVSE changed out defective part for new one at no cost and Charger is back online
- 11/19 Contacted Steven Marti, resident that first informed Town of Seymour Charger was not working properly
- 11/24 Board of Finance Meeting to present Greenway Phase 1 Budget request that was unanimously approved for resolution for Bonding Town's portion of Design Budget and twenty percent (20%) of Construction or \$325,000 towards a \$900,000 estimated overall project cost
- 11/30 Tax Incentive Agreement for 770 B Derby Ave was executed and recorded
- 11/30 Met with Adam Lieder from Out on a Limb Tree Service for Tree work review in Silvermine Industrial Park



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