

SEYMOUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes
August 7, 2018
Flaherty Room, Town Hall

Members Present: C. Aliman, C. Bowen, C. Thomas, R. VanEgghen,
M. Marcinek, p. Lombardi

ITEM #1

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

ITEM #2

Pledge of Allegiance led by C. Aliman.

ITEM #3 –Review of Prior meeting minutes

Mr. Marcinek moved to table the approval of the prior meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by C. Bowen and carried unanimously.

ITEM #4 – Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

ITEM #5 - Public Comment

Alex Budzinski, Housatonic Wire stated that he was dealing with the last Board since 2006. He stated that he had been contacted by someone from Fairfield interested in purchasing his property. He stated that he met with Town officials and they told him that they would prefer a mixed use for that area, but because of zoning it is not allowed. M. Marcinek asked why he did not go for a zone change. Mr. Budzinski stated that afterward he was told that could have all residential. C. Aliman stated that this was discussed outside of the EDC. Mr. Budzinski stated that he was given a copy of the feasibility study of certain properties for development in Seymour. He feels that his property is readily available for development. He also stated that the waterfall is being cleaned up and work done on the site. He stated that he will try and keep the Board informed of what is happening with his property or if he needs help with anything. Mr. Lombardi asked if there was some issue with environmental concerns with this property. Mr. Budzinski stated that there was some seepage into the soil. He stated that he would work with the Board on getting this property developed. The site is approximately 4.5 acres.

Chris Larocca, 350 Hawthorne Avenue, derby stated that someone from Fairfield County would have a different mentality regarding the development of a parcel.

R.VanEgghen asked he there were any promotional materials on the site and Mr. Budzinski sated that he is working on that now. M. Marcinek asked how much of he site is buildable and Mr. Budzinski stated that approximately two acres.

ITEM #8 Social Media

- a. Outreadh suggestions and ideas
- b. Public Comments and perception

C. Bowen stated that it is going well especially on facebook. Ashley Sirowich stated that there have been over one hundred likes on facebook. C. Bowen stated that twitter and instagram are a little slower. He stated that he starting posting there last week. He stated that facebook will be the main focus. He stated that he has an agenda for the next couple of weeks and is going week by week and will focus on different areas of town each week. He stated that there is also a calendar of events. He also noted that if too much is posted on facebook then they want you to pay for advertising. Ashley Sirowich stated that they are trying to go with a slogan and show more of what Seymour has to offer. C.Bowen sated that it is going well and next month he will have a more detailed report.

ITEM #7 – New EDD Director and additional funding

C. Aliman stated that there was a meeting with Sheila O'Malley and the possibility of doing a regional site and combining with another town. C. Bowen felt that working together but would be competing for business. C. Aliman stated that there needs to be clear transparency. M. Marcinek asked how to we identify sites for development. He also felt that the Board should work with the First Selectman on the possibility of getting some State funding for road improvements. C. Bowen stated that the Board should speak with business owners downtown about that their issues are. C. Aliman stated that she tried to get funding to go to businesses downtown and at the industrial park and did not get anywhere.

C. Thomas asked about the parking meters and P. Lomardi stated that there were removed. M.Marcinek asked where are the parking problems and what can be done to help promote moving the train station. C. Aliman stated that there will be a presentation on the railroad stations in the Valley on August 15, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Derby train station.

C.Aliman stated that the expectations of the EDC Director need to be done and those need to be given to the First Selectman along with a job description.

A motion to adjourn was made by R. VanEgghen, seconded by C. Bowen and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryanne DeTullio, Recording Secretary