

SEYMOUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2019

Members Present: C. Aliman, R. VanEgghen, K. Robinson, M. Marcinek, C. Bowen

ITEM #1

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

ITEM #2

All stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 3 – CERC discussion

C. Bowen stated that CERC made a presentation before but there are still some questions that were not adequately addressed. Sadie Colcord, CERC stated that the focus should be on business retention and the most important use of resources. She recommended reaching out to business owners and developers and work to figure out how to help them. She stated that they will look at getting the priorities of a community and get an idea of what the town is looking for. M. Marcinek asked if they look at the town's zoning maps. S. Colcord stated that any changes to zoning would have to be done through the Planning and Zoning Commission but they will go through the regulations and see where businesses might have a problem. M. Marcinek asked how they get involved in maximize the value of a property. S. Colcord stated that they would go before P&Z and explain why a regulation should be changed. C. Bowen noted that P&Z works with the town engineer and ZEO. S. Colcord stated that they have a strong commercial real estate data base and work with brokers. M. Marcinek asked how they go about promoting Seymour. S. Colcord stated that it is up to the Town. They work with commercial real estate network and the local media and look at what is available in a town. M. Marcinek asked how often they go back to a property owner and S. Colcord stated that once every two months. She stated that they have a whole marketing department and create long term strategy and what the desires of a community are. M. Marcinek asked if they write grants and S. Colcord stated that they do. C. Bowen asked how quickly would someone know what Seymour is about. S. Colcord stated that they review the regulations and view the downtown area and industrial park and get a good understanding of the town at least monthly. M. Marcinek asked how would they go about getting a developer interested. S. Colcord stated that they have a commercial real estate network and they would get the word out about a property and work with the property owner. K. Robinson asked how they go about reaching out to businesses to come to Seymour. S. Colcord stated that generally a retailer shows interest in a town. She stated that create marketing materials and try to promote the town. She stated that marketing the assets of a town is important in attracting businesses. C. Thomas asked what their priority is and S. Colcord stated that it is retention. M. Marcinek asked how they deal with a property owner who may not

want to develop their property. S. Colcord stated that they do a market analysis and feasibility study. She stated that it is important to do some goal setting and get an idea of what the town's priorities are. C. Bowen stated that this will be discussed again next month and he will be in contact with CERC.

Item #4 – Confirm Start Time – 6:30 pm or 7pm

R. VanEgghen moved that the start time be 7:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by M. Marcinek and carried unanimously..

Item #5 – Unfinished Business

Ashley stated that she found it hard to talk to businesses. M. Marcinek suggested sending a letter to businesses regarding this. C. Bowen stated that they tried to do it through e-mail and facebook. C. Bowen stated that they are trying to find out what works and what doesn't. He also stated that the letter would come from the First Selectman. C. Bowen stated that this will on next month's agenda for further discussion. Ashley suggested having something on facebook about what economic development and promoting businesses in the downtown are and at the industrial park.

Item #6 – Public Comment

There was no one from the public wishing to speak.

A motion to adjourn was made by M. Marcinek, seconded by C. Thomas and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryanne DeTullio, Rec. Secretary