

The Town of Brooklyn Economic Development Commission

Chairperson, Robert Simons

(860)774-6544

*Meeting the First Tuesday of every month @ 4pm at the
Clifford B Green Memorial Center*

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Members present: Marybeth Leonard, Cary Garcia, Robert Simons, Andrew Pinto and Ronald Ventura.

Absent with notification: Chris Landis

Also present: First Selectman, Rick Ives

- 1.) Call to order - Robert Simons, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm
- 2.) Approval of Minutes: Cary Garcia made a motion to accept the regular meeting minutes of August 2, 2016 as presented. Motion seconded by Andy Pinto. Motion passes unanimously.
- 3.) Public Commentary: None
- 4.) Unfinished Business
 - a.) Brooklyn Business Association –
 - Mr. Simons reported that there was a ‘Fun After Five’ on August 16th hosted by Manny Patel of America’s Best Value Inn.
 - Business Recognition has been postponed until fall. Mr. Simons stated that he was hoping to touch base with Lyn LaCharite regarding her organization of the presentations. Mrs. Leonard feels this is very important and counts ten businesses needing recognition. She volunteers to take over this task.
 - b.) Brooklyn Fall Festival
 - Mrs. Leonard reports that 20 artists and 5 vendors have signed up to participate in the festival.
 - Traffic flow has been discussed and a request has been made to have State Trooper Trotter direct traffic for the weekend. Mr. Ives commented that it is \$170.35/hour to hire a police officer and that between Trooper Trotter and a hired officer, the Town will cover the cost of the additional officer.
 - Trash pickup is also needed for both days. Mr. Ives said he will look into coordinating the details of how this will happen.
 - Porta Potties will be placed in the village center.
 - Mrs. Leonard requested of Mr. Ives that the road sides be mowed prior to the festival.
 - Mrs. Garcia stated that she was contacted by the owner of Tunk City Revival, Rena Masson, wondering if there would be a social media presence for the fall festival. Mrs. Garcia referred her to Mrs. Leonard. Mrs. Leonard reported that she had been in touch with Ms. Masson.
 - Mr. Ives suggested posted information about the festival on the Town website.

- Mrs. Leonard asked Mr. Ives if he, and possible other members of the Board of Selectman, would participate as apple pie judges. Mr. Ives will ask the Board.
- Mortlake Fire Department, along with Smokey the Bear, will also be in attendance.

5.) New Business

- a) The group discussed Mr. Pinto's "Doing Business in Brooklyn" e-mail regarding the role of EDC. The group felt there was a considerable amount of information to review but that it was headed in the right direction. A motion was by Mr. Pinto to continue the discussion after further review. Mr. Ventura seconded the motion. All in favor.
- b) Mr. Ives reported that the Town approached Panera Bread and Cumberland Farms in hopes they would consider opening in Brooklyn. Both corporations stated that Brooklyn does not meet the qualifications for traffic.
- c) Crossfit Aisling opened in the Job Lot Plaza.
- d) Dunkin Donut has been facing numerous roadblocks from P&Z but are moving forward with the new location.
- e) Mrs. Garcia reported that she now has access to the EDC page on the Town website which avails the EDC many opportunities to create a more welcoming and helpful resource for business owners and potential business owners. The group agreed that it needed to be an informational page. Some ideas proposed by the group were:
 - A list of available commercial real estate
 - Application to establish a business in Brooklyn
 - FAQs about starting a business in Brooklyn
 - Link to the current Business Directory
 - Direction to the appropriate individuals
 - Town demographics
- f) Mr. Simons informed the group that due to a change in direction of his business he will need to step down at Chair, but has spoken with Mr. Pinto who is willing to fill the position. Mr. Simons will remain as Vice Chair. Mr. Pinto stated that while he is willing to move into this position. He feels that it is very important that all members are in regular attendance and that the EDC needs additional members. The change of officers will take place November 1st. A motion to accept this change was made by Mrs. Leonard. Mrs. Garcia seconded the motion. All in favor.

6.) Other Business

- a) Mr. Ventura attended the Planning and Zoning meeting and felt that it was too great a time commitment considering the format of the meeting. He felt that unless the EDC has something to discuss with the group that it wasn't necessary for an EDC member to attend each meeting. Mrs. Garcia suggested that EDC members should subscribe to the P&Z agenda and minutes on the Town website in order to follow along in a more efficient manner. Mr. Pinto and Mr. Simons suggested requesting that New Business be presented at the beginning of the P&Z agenda for those who do not need to stay for the entirety of the meeting.

7.) Adjournment - Motion to adjourn at 5:14 pm by Ronald Ventura. Second by MaryBeth Leonard. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cary Garcia, Secretary