

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, August 7, 2018

Members present: Cary Garcia, Robert Simons, Jeff Gagnon, Marybeth Leonard

Absent with notice: Chris Landis

Staff present: Rick Ives, Jana Roberson

Members of the Public of Note: AJ Kerouac

- 1) Call to order - Robert Simons, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
- 2) Approval of April minutes – A motion was made by Mrs. Garcia and seconded by Mr. Gagnon. All in favor.
- 3) Public Commentary
 - a) Jana Roberson attended the meeting and provided the group with a summary of the possible revisions to the Town zoning regulations. There will be a public informational session next Wednesday, August 15th at 6 pm in the middle school auditorium. Mr. Gagnon may be able to attend as an EDC representative. A full digital version of the changes is available on the Town website. Ms. Roberson is looking for feedback, both positive and negative, particularly from members of other commissions. Highlights of the discussion included:
 - South Main St. is now zoned as Neighborhood Commercial on both sides
 - Mr. Simons expressed concern over blight in the South Main St. area and its effect on the development of East Brooklyn. Ms. Roberson stated that Martha Frankel handles blight enforcement and has been addressing the issue.
 - Ms. Roberson has received some positive feedback from the business community about the new changes, particularly in regards to minimum lot size and minimum buildable requirements.

Ms. Roberson left the meeting at 4:15.

- 4) Brooklyn Branding/NECOG/Discussion with Mr. Ives
 - a) Mr. Ives would like to start working on a new Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) as it is due for renewal in 2021. It makes sense to include any new branding specifics into the plan.
 - b) Mr. Ives would like to invite members of Planning & Zoning, Board of Selectmen, Board of Education, Agriculture Commission, Conservation Commission, Recreation Department, and John Filchak of NECOG to the October EDC meeting to open the discussion about branding Brooklyn. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 2nd at 6:30 pm. Mr. Ives will confirm

if the community room is available for use. He will also be on WINY tomorrow and plans to mention the meeting.

- c) Mr. Ives discussed numerous current commercial properties for sale or needing tenants:
 - a. The sale of the old D&Z property fell through for a third time. Mr. Ives stated that the owners are not forthcoming with why it is not selling but he suspects that they would like to keep it as a gas station and the property is too small to continue as one.
 - b. The owners of the Ocean State Job Lot plaza do not seem to have any interest in filling the vacant spaces, selling the building, or making improvements. It continues to be an eyesore at the entrance to East Brooklyn and Mr. Ives feels the rent is too high.
 - c. The property across from Hank's may be sold but the state does not want to add a cut into Rt. 6.
- d) Mr. Ives wants the EDC to be involved in the budget process for next year. The current budget is set at \$6,150.
- e) Discussion continued regarding how to get citizens more involved.

5) Unfinished Business

- a) Brooklyn Business Association (BBA) – Mrs. Garcia stated that she was not able to attend the last meeting but that the BBA is preparing for the annual car cruise to be held on Sunday, September 30th from 12-5. BBA also presented a donation of \$800 to the Recreation Department's Jim Boyle Campership Fund.
- b) Brooklyn Fall Festival – The festival is scheduled for Saturday, September 29th at 10:00 and will be a celebration of Israel Putnam's 300th birthday. Highlights for the day include:
 - a. The Sons/Daughters/Children of the American Revolution
 - b. Parade at 2:00 led by an encampment of the Sons of the American Revolution.
 - c. The Federated Church will be open and selling chowder and bread
 - d. The Historical Society and Museums will be open
 - e. Dragoon horses will be behind the Post Office.
 - f. Apple Pie contest – tasting at 10:00, winner announced at 11:30.
 - g. Scarecrows on the bank lawn
 - h. Unitarian Church will be open for tours
 - i. Putnam Elms, Registrars booth, quilt displays, birthday cake
- c) Business Recognition – It is still unclear if EDC or BBA will be handling the plaque presentations. Lyn LaCharite had previously expressed interest in having the BBA present the plaques. Mrs. Garcia stated that she feels both groups need to be represented and although both groups can benefit by being involved, it's the business owner that should benefit the most by receiving a warm welcome and an ad in the Turnpike Buyer. At every presentation the business owner should be given an invitation to join the BBA and an invitation to join a Board or Commission. The group agreed that it should probably be a shared task but it is unclear who is going to coordinate the presentations. Mrs. Leonard continues to keep a list of businesses needing to be recognized.

- 6) A motion to adjourn was made at 4:55 p.m. by Mrs. Leonard, seconded by Mr. Gagnon. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Cary Garcia, Secretary