

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 6, 2019

Members present: Jeff Gagnon, Cary Garcia, Chris Landis (by phone, in person 4:20), Robert Simons

Also present: Jana Roberson, AJ Kerouac

- 1) Call to order – Mr. Simons called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
- 2) Approval of minutes – Mrs. Garcia made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of May 16th. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gagnon. Motion passed unanimously.
- 3) Public Commentary
 - a) Mr. Kerouac expressed his desire to direct Brooklyn towards applying for the All American Town award, however pointed out that there would need to be a very committed group of individuals involved. Mr. Simons stated that he felt it was a good idea, but thought that Mr. Kerouac should put his ideas into a formal statement and bring it up for discussion after the election season has passed. Mr. Simons also felt that a staff member should be involved for directing the application.
 - b) Discussion followed with Mr. Kerouac regarding groups in town that might be interested in participating in such projects (i.e. Putnam Elms).
 - c) Discussion continued regarding a lack of activities for seniors and the draw to go to Putnam for activities.
 - d) Ms. Roberson distributed the proposed revisions to the Zoning regulations and stated that the public hearing opened in mid-July and will remain open until at least August 20th, and possibly longer for more feedback if necessary. She cited a positive article in the Courant Community regarding the new regulations stating that the goal of the revisions is to make them easy to use and understand.
 - e) Ms. Roberson discussed a new certification for CT municipalities in economic development, stating that going through the process is a good way to review practices in Brooklyn on broad scale and would be a good learning process. She also touched on the use of social media as a platform for new businesses as well

as recognition of volunteers at town events.

(Ms. Roberson left at 4:30 p.m.)

4) Unfinished Business

- a) Future of EDC - The group agreed to table the discussion until after the election.
- b) Mr. Simons stated that Mr. Voccio e-mailed him requesting to move the meeting to a later time as he was unable to return to the area for the 4:00 time. The group discussed the fact that the time has been adjusted before with a similar low turnout unless a special meeting was called and specific individuals were invited. The Commission agreed to stay with the 4:00 time slot but is open to meeting later if there is ever a specific agenda item to be discussed.
- c) Social media presence - Mrs. Garcia is willing to set up a Facebook page but requested feedback from the group on how it would be used. The group agreed that for now she should get it set up and it will be a work in progress, with the potential ranging from simply announcing meeting times to providing a link to a survey, or supporting other events in town. Mrs. Garcia will have it set up by the October meeting.

5) New Business

- a) Mr. Simons lead a discussion on whether current town personnel could guide the EDC with some direction.

6) Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made at 4:58 p.m. by Mr. Landis, second by Mr. Gagnon. Motion passed unanimously.

7) The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 1st at 4 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cary Garcia, Secretary