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The Town of Brooklyn Economic Development Commission

Chairperson, Lyn LaCharite
(860)774-6045

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

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REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 5, 2013

MINUTES

Lyn LaCharite, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

1.) Roll Call: Marybeth Leonard, Carrie Garcia, Lyn LaCharite, Robert Simons, Andrew Pinto, Ronald Ventura.

Absent with notice: Chris Landis

Ronald Ventura seated as a regular voting member.

2.) Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting October 1, 2013. Robert Simons made a motion to accept the October 1, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Andrew Pinto second the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3.) Public Commentary - None

4.) Correspondence - Lyn LaCharite received an email from Jana Roberson, Brooklyn Land Use Administrator, regarding a recent article in ECHO Newsletter (Eastern Connecticut Housing Opportunities) featuring the restoration of Quebec Square and future preservation of Tiffany Place.

5.) Unfinished Business:

a.) Business Association: Meetings and Business After Hours - Lyn LaCharite reported the BBA met last month and will meet again on November 19th. The Fun After Five will be held at Creamery Brook. They will not have a regular meeting in December, however they plan on having a Fun After Five. Hank's Restaurant will host the Christmas themed event.

b.) Business Recognition: Wal Mart and Dollar Tree Grand Openings - Wal Mart was presented a plaque at their Grand Opening on November 1, 2013. Lyn LaCharite reported the Grand Opening was very well done. Most of the members from the EDC were in attendance. They received a tour of the entire Building and property grounds.

Andrew Pinto thanked Lyn LaCharite for her efforts with the Wal Mart grand opening and her representation of the EDC.

On Saturday, November 2, 2013, members of the EDC and other representatives of the Town presented Dollar Tree with a Business Recognition plaque.

Lyn LaCharite has spoken to representatives of Core Plus and Subway, located inside Wal Mart. Both businesses will be having their ribbon cutting ceremony on November 25, 2013. The EDC will also present a Business Recognition plaque at this time.

c.) P&Z Planning and Sign update - Ken Cardinal and other business members have contacted Lyn regarding the limit of signs they are allowed to have on their property. The Brooklyn Land Use Administrator, Jana Roberson, has been enforcing the regulations by sending out violation letters. Mrs. LaCharite suggested that Mr. Cardinal attend the next Brooklyn Business Association meeting in October to express his concerns. At this meeting the BBA supported Mr. Cardinal's concerns. On behalf of the BBA, President, Rene Comtois, sent a letter to the Planning & Zoning Commission sharing these concerns and asking the P&Z to review the current sign regulations. They also suggested the Commission set up a subcommittee with a few members from the BBA and the PZC.

Lyn LaCharite also suggested to Mr. Cardinal that he attend the PZC meeting to express his concerns.

Lyn LaCharite asked the Commissioners if they would like to comment on this issue and have it presented to the PZC. Ron Ventura does not feel the EDC should act on this topic until the business owners attend the PZC to voice their concerns. The Commissioners further discussed this and agreed not to take any position at this time.

6.) New Business -

a.) 2013/2014 Goals - Chair, Lyn LaCharite, asked the Commission what they would like to work on for the new year. Discussion was heard regarding the re-zoning of South Main Street and bringing businesses to the PC Zone. Ronald Ventura suggested waiting until the elections were over as there may be a change in First Selectman. Robert Simons suggested inviting the First Selectman to a meeting to speak to the EDC about what their vision for Brooklyn will be and how they can help.

7.) Other Business - None.

8.) Adjournment - Robert Simons made a motion to adjourn at 4:56 pm. Second by Andrew Pinto. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen M. Desrosier, Clerk