

2014-03014 EDC MTG Minutes

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

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*

REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 4, 2014

MINUTES

1.) Roll Call - Lyn LaCharite called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm

Members in attendance: Marybeth Leonard, Cary Garcia, Lyn LaCharite, Robert Simons, Andrew Pinto and Ronald Ventura. Chris Landis - absent with notification.

Ronald Ventura seated as a voting member.

2.) Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting February 4, 2014 - Motion by Robert Simons to accept the minutes as presented. Second by Cary Garcia. Motion carried unanimously.

3.) Public Commentary - None

4.) Correspondence - None

5.) Unfinished Business

a.) Business Recognition - Due to the weather this past month, plaques were not presented to any new businesses. The Commission will present plaques to The Green Goddess, Monogrammit and Purple Carrot at a future date and time.

b.) Business Association - Lyn LaCharite reported that the Fun After Five which was held on February 19, 2014 at NAPA had an excellent turnout. They are still having new members join. Some of the new members are from out of Town but do business in Brooklyn. The next regular meeting will be held at Grey Mare Farm at 7:30 pm on March 11, 2014.

c.) Housing Authority Update - Andrew Pinto gave a report to the Commission on this matter. He first outlined the history of the renovations of the buildings at Tiffany Place. These buildings were eventually shored up and residents were moved out for safety reasons. Mr. Pinto next reviewed the management history of Quebec Square and Tiffany Place. Currently Quebec Square is owned and run by a 501(c)3 Quebec Square Housing Inc. and Tiffany Square is run by the Brooklyn Housing Authority. He reviewed, with the Commission, which properties the Town of Brooklyn owns in this area.

Mr. Pinto attended a Brooklyn Housing Authority Meeting which he stated was mainly run by Putnam Housing. He felt that more organization is needed for these meetings.

A question Mr. Pinto asked the Quebec Square Housing Inc was why a check for Tiffany Square is in their account. He feels there is a need to separate the two entities.

Regarding the funding and improvements to Tiffany Place, it is estimated to cost roughly 3.2 million with the funding obtained partially by a CL&P Grant. Funding is also being worked on with the CHFA.. The plans for the renovations are about 40% done and are scheduled to be completed in April when they will be sent to the State for approval. He expressed that a representative from Brooklyn will need to get involved in this process. Mr. Pinto would like the project to be completed in phases and have a smaller contractor do the work.

6.) New Business

a.) Local Signs - On March 7, 2014 there was a meeting regarding the issue of signs held at Baker's Dozen. Lyn LaCharite gave a brief outline of this meeting. She stated that some owners would like to see banners and

flags allowed. She further outlined some of the other discussions they had at this meeting. They feel there are too many rules from the town. She explained to all in attendance at this meeting that she would speak with Jana Roberson about their concerns. She also stated that the First Selectman has stated that he would like to appropriate \$40,000.00 to go through some of the regulations, such as this one, to clean them up and make them easier to understand.

Ron Ventura commented that appearance, location, attractiveness and safety should be taken into consideration.

7.) Other Business - The Commission next discussed whether they should have another meeting with the business owners and Jana Roberson to further discuss the issues regarding signs. Lyn LaCharite will speak to the members of the BBA at the next meeting and report back.

The Commission next discussed the four old Welcome to Brooklyn signs located in various areas of Brooklyn. Lyn LaCharite will get a bid for these signs and report back to the Commission.

Fun Day - Bucky Lohbusch is planning a meeting at Hanks at the end of this month. An email will be sent out to Commissioners regarding the date of this meeting.

An informative town pre-budget meeting will be held on March 24, 2014 at the middle school for the public to attend.

8.) Adjournment - Marybeth Leonard made a motion to adjourn at 5:15 pm. Second by Ronald Ventura. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Desrosier, Clerk