

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 JANUARY 5, 2016

MINUTES

1.) Roll Call - Lyn LaCharite, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:15 pm.

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

Ronald Ventura seated as a regular voting member

2.) Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting November 3, 2015 - Marybeth Leonard made a motion to approve. Second by Cary Garcia. Motion carried.

3.) Public Commentary - Jana Roberson was present and stated her new title is Director of Community Development. She is now a part-time employee in the town of Brooklyn. She is looking forward to assisting the EDC in their future endeavors for the Town. She has been working on her graduate studies in economic community development. She has some recommendations that she would like to discuss with the EDC at a future date.

4.) Unfinished Business

a.) Brooklyn Business Association - The next annual meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2016 to elect officers for the next year. At this meeting they will also discuss ideas on how to increase the membership of the association and also events for the upcoming year.

b.) Business Recognition - Cornerstone Properties, Nutmeg, Steven's Lending and Enterprise Rent-A-Car were presented plaques last month. Enterprise Rent-A-Car did not have an ad ready when the others were submitted to the newspaper.

The Commission discussed other businesses that could be recognized in the future which included: East Coast Glam, The Barber Shop, and Integrity Auto. Dunkin' Donuts and Danielson Glass will not be ready for quite some time, however when they are the Commission will give a presentation to each business.

5.) New or Other Business

a.) EDC Budget - Lyn LaCharite received a letter from Sherri Soucy regarding the EDC's \$6,700 fiscal budget. In the past the EDC has returned funds left over in

their budget to the Town. The Commission will discuss reducing their budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal calendar at a future meeting.

b.) 2016 Meeting Schedule - This has been submitted to the town and posted on the Website.

c.) 2016 EDC Goals -

The Commission discussed various buildings in town that need to be addressed regarding improvements, rebuilding and cleaning them up. Jana Roberson stated that now she is back from maternity leave, she plans on looking into these issues.

Lyn LaCharite asked each member to give their goals for the upcoming year.

Marybeth Leonard stated she would like to work on the properties coming into Killingly and clean them up if possible.

Cary Garcia agreed with Marybeth Leonard's idea and would also like to do more work with the BBA.

Chris Landis stated that he would like to see Connecticut Government change their ideas so that people will want to move here. He also feels that the EDC and Brooklyn should be talking with towns that are similar to Brooklyn, such as Woodstock and Pomfret to get their approach on certain issues.

Lyn LaCharite would like to revitalize south street and work on grants which would help businesses. She also feels that the EDC should be helping new businesses as they move into town to help aid them in the process.

Rich Ives, First Selectman, suggested a part-time EDC Coordinator to work on some of the ideas that the EDC has been discussing but has not been able to act on them. Discussion ensued regarding this idea.

Andrew Pinto feels that things have changed since he came on the Commission. He knows that there are businesses that want to move into town, however the Town Hall has not been business friendly. He likes the idea of an EDC Coordinator and feels it needs to be acted upon immediately.

Ronald Ventura agreed with all the discussions and feels a part-time coordinator is a great idea.

Rick Ives explained to the EDC that they need to come up with an idea for a part-time coordinator by their next meeting.

Lyn LaCharite discussed having a special meeting with Jana Roberson regarding her ideas on January 13, 2016 at 4:00 pm at the Green Building. Lyn LaCharite will post a schedule regarding this meeting.

6.) Adjournment - Motion to adjourn at 4:50 by Chris Landis with a second by Marybeth Leonard. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Karen M. Desrosier

