

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, December 6, 2016

Members present: Marybeth Leonard, Cary Garcia, Robert Simons, Andrew Pinto, Chris Landis and Ronald Ventura.

- 1.) Call to order - Robert Simons, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm
- 2.) Mr. Landis made a motion to seat alternates. Motion seconded by Mr. Pinto. Motion passes unanimously.
- 3.) Approval of Minutes: Mr. Landis made a motion to accept the regular meeting minutes of November 1, 2016 as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Pinto. Motion passes unanimously.
- 3.) Public Commentary: Louise Keibel introduced herself as a new resident to Brooklyn and may be interested in joining the Commission.
- 4.) Unfinished Business
 - a.) Brooklyn Business Association (BBA) – Meeting held on 11/15
 - Monique Wolanin, QVCC Community Engagement and Fundraising, presented to the group about different opportunities available to business and industry partners at the college.
 - Lunchbox Learning is on hold until the new year.
 - A wine tasting event is being planned for the spring, most likely in late April.
 - The Election Day food drive brought in 400 pounds of non-perishable food items and \$277 in cash. Donations went to Friends of Assisi.
 - The holiday party will be held December 20th at 5:30 pm at the Barn at Gray Mare Hill. Mrs. Leonard invites all EDC commissioners to join.
 - b.) Mr. Simons reported that Mrs. Garcia unknowingly has been an alternate, not a regular seated commissioner. Mrs. Garcia reported that she received an email from Melissa Bradley that Mr. Ives has approved her as a seated commissioner. She will swear in next week.
 - c.) Business Recognition
 - Mrs. Leonard reported that three plaque presentations were made last week and were published in the Turnpike Buyer – Inspire Marketing, Lemieux Insurance, and Brooklyn Farm, Pet & Hardware.
 - A discussion followed regarding the Turnpike Buyer ads. There was some confusion as to who would be sending in the information and creating the ad. Mrs. Garcia had confirmed with Mr. Pinto and Mrs. Leonard that she would be doing the ad and sending

it in however, the ads appeared in last week's issue. The business owners sent in their own information and the ad was completed by someone at the Turnpike Buyer. The group agreed that it is a disservice to have business owners send in their own information. Mrs. Leonard will confirm with the Turnpike Buyer what the process is.

- Mrs. Leonard stated that a photographer is needed for the business recognition photos, otherwise all commissioners in attendance are not able to be in the picture. Mr. Landis tentatively volunteered his wife, Amy.
- The group discussed and agreed that it is appropriate to include the Northeast CT Chamber to all plaque presentations.
- Mrs. Leonard is working on setting up the next presentations for January for RC Central, Crossfit Aisling, Sweets Farm, and Andy Rzeknikiewicz of Brooklyn Restoration Supply (never recognized).

d.) EDC webpage

- Mrs. Garcia reported that she added some more links to the webpage. Those in the group who visited the page feel that it is easy to use and has important information.
- The group revisited the need to have a list of available commercial properties on the webpage. Mrs. Leonard spoke with Mark Benard regarding access to this information. He is happy to help. Mrs. Leonard will follow up with him.

5.) New Business

a.) Economic Development Coordinator Position

- Mr. Simons distributed a job description he and Mr. Landis created from different sources on the internet. The group reviewed the description. Mr. Simons requests that the group look closely at it and give him feedback at the January meeting.
- Mr. Simons emailed a link from a 60 Minutes feature about the Golden Triangle in Mississippi. Discussion followed regarding the individual responsible for the success of this manufacturing capital.
- Mr. Simons will discuss this position with the First Selectman before the next meeting.

b.) P&Z Minutes

- South Main St. zoning changes – The PZC continues discussion of whether to downzone the North side or upzone the South side. At one time Mr. Kerouac suggested seeking EDC input regarding this issue. The EDC supports Neighborhood Commercial zoning on both sides of South Main St. Mr. Landis made a motion to approve. Mr. Ventura seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

c.) The 2017 calendar has been distributed and is on the EDC page of the Town website.

d.) Mr. Simons distributed notes from a webinar he attended titled, "Funding Economic Development When Your State is Broke."

6.) Other Business

- a.) Mrs. Garcia heard that Salvation Army is moving to Dayville next to Planet Fitness. Mr. Kerouac confirmed that he had heard the same.

- b.) Mr. Landis will stay on as a seated member. Mr. Simons and the group feel that although his work prevents attendance at some meetings, he contributes greatly at the meetings he is able to attend.
- c.) The commission is short one alternate. Ms. Keibel is considering volunteering if asked.

6.) Adjournment - Motion to adjourn at 5:02 pm by Chris Landis. Second by Ronald Ventura. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cary Garcia, Secretary