

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, April 3, 2018**

**Members present:** Marybeth Leonard, Cary Garcia, Robert Simons, Jeff Gagnon

**Absent with notice:** Chris Landis

**Staff present:** Jana Roberson

**Members of the Public of Note:** AJ Kerouac

- 1) Call to order - Robert Simons, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and welcomed new Commissioner, Jeff Gagnon, to the meeting.
- 2) Approval of February minutes – A motion was made by Mrs. Leonard and seconded by Mrs. Garcia. All in favor.
- 3) Public Commentary
  - a) AJ Kerouac stated that he felt the presentation by John Filchak of NECOG at the last meeting was good but it was lacking in economic development. Mr. Kerouac suggested that the Commission request that John focus more specifically on this topic.
  - b) Mr. Kerouac stated that he would very much like to be an EDC commissioner but has been previously told it is not allowed given his position on Planning and Zoning. Mr. Kerouac is willing to recuse himself when necessary, as others have done in the past when having positions on other boards or commissions. He will be filling out another application form in case his previous application was misplaced. Mr. Simons stated that he will speak with Mr. Ives on this matter.
  - c) Jana Roberson attended the meeting and provided an update for the Planning and Zoning Commission(PZC):
    - PZC is very close to releasing a draft of the regulations for public review.
    - She confirmed that the EDC is still in support of same zoning on both sides of S. Main St. (neighborhood commercial).
    - Ms. Roberson provided an update on the zoning in Paradise Lake regarding lot size regulations which will help develop the area and open some opportunity for investment.
    - Ms. Roberson explained the concept of planned development zone changes, which would allow for more flexibility for development. A proposed project could essentially determine the zoning for a specific area. Mr. Simons expressed his concern that a public hearing should occur in this scenario. Ms. Roberson stated that any plans would need

to fit within the Plan of Conservation and Development and she felt that the members of the PZC would be very cautious in their decisions.

- There will be a public hearing next month to change home office requirements. Current regulations do not allow home-based businesses to have any customer traffic. New regulations will allow businesses such as one sink salons, massage therapists, dieticians, etc. to conduct business and have light customer traffic. Ms. Roberson feels this will also help promote businesses that may be currently under the radar due to these restrictions.

d) Mrs. Leonard pointed out that the EDC meeting location is printed incorrectly in the Norwich Bulletin, which states that the meeting is held at Town Hall.

e) Mrs. Leonard inquired as to whether there is going to be a Town clean up this year.

#### 4) Unfinished Business

a) Brooklyn Business Association (BBA) – no new updates.

b) Business Recognition – There is \$1,100 left in the EDC budget. Mrs. Leonard is now able to move forward with scheduling the business recognitions. She has a list of businesses that need to be recognized. While the BBA had previously not wanted to be involved with the presentations, Lyn LaCharite has expressed interest in being involved. Mrs. Leonard will begin scheduling the presentations and will touch base with Lyn to see if she is still interested in being involved.

#### 5) NECOG

a) Mr. Simons discussed his email to the Commission regarding a planned special meeting to take place possibly May 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss with John Filchak of NECOG how the current operations of the Town can be modernized and to create a brand for Brooklyn. Mr. Gagnon pointed out that branding has to be based on an idealized version of what Brooklyn already is, not something new.

b) In discussing who should be invited to the meeting, the group agreed that all Boards and Commissions should be included. Other groups such as the Historical Society, the Board of Education and the Garden Club were suggested as well. Mr. Kerouac expressed concern over getting a cross section of the community that could possibly be biased and may have a separate agenda.

c) Mr. Simons will discuss the plan with Mr. Ives and plan to have the meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 or 7:00.

6) A motion to adjourn was made at 5:25 p.m. by Mrs. Garcia, seconded by Mrs. Leonard. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Cary Garcia, Secretary