

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, June 6, 2017

Members present: Cary Garcia, Chris Landis, Robert Simons

Absent with notification: Marybeth Leonard

Staff Present: Richard Ives, First Selectman

Members of the Public of Note: AJ Kerouac – P&Z

- 1) Call to order - Robert Simons, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
- 2) Approval of April minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Landis and seconded by Mr. Simons. All in favor.
- 3) EDC Coordinator position – Mr. Ives informed the group that while the coordinator position was supported by members of the Boards of Selectmen and Finance, they could not justify a new position in the budget given the fiscal climate of the State.
- 4) Discussion with Mr. Ives regarding the role of EDC going forward:
 - a) Mr. Simons suggested Jana Roberson step in to help with EDC matters since she is already on the Town payroll. Mr. Ives stated that her work with re-writing Town regulations will continue for some time. The next step towards finalization is a public hearing but it is unclear as to what the exact timeframe might be.
 - b) Mr. Ives may have two new members for EDC by the next meeting in August.
 - c) Mr. Ives is enthusiastic about filling the empty spaces in the commercial zone on Rt. 6, specifically the Ocean State Job Lot plaza. He states he has been looking into this for three months but has not been successful in finding out what the plans are for these spaces.
 - d) Mr. Ives met with Mr. Townsend today regarding the progress of the development behind CVS. Mr. Townsend continues to push for the large building, yet to be built, to become the new Town offices, Rec Center, etc. Otherwise he does not have tenants lined up for these spaces.
 - e) Mr. Ives reports that the collection bins have been removed from the old gas station on Rt. 169 in the Village Center district.
 - f) Mr. Ives accepts responsibility for the breakdown in communication between himself and EDC. He recognizes that he needs to pass along information to EDC commissioners so that they are aware of what is happening in Town. He states he will do better with this going forward. He expressed concern for the future of CT and thanked the Commissioners for their continued patience.

Mr. Ives left at 4:15.

5) Public Commentary:

- Mr. Kerouac suggested involving NECOG in the economic planning of Brooklyn. It already has a plan in place for Rt. 169. He feels the challenges with expanding the Village Center commercial opportunities are a lack of parking, but states that the new zoning regulations are being loosened to help this problem.

6) Unfinished Business

a) Brooklyn Business Association (BBA)

- Movie night in the park – The BBA is hosting “The Secret Life of Pets” on Friday, June 23rd at about 8:15 pm at Prince Hill. The event will be free to the public and sponsored by local businesses. There will be food and refreshments available for purchase. Another movie night is scheduled for July 28th. The BBA is testing out the two nights this year to determine if it would be successful as a regular summer event.
- Car Cruise – The event was originally scheduled for Sunday, 9/24. However it will likely be moved to the first weekend in October due to Lyn LaCharite being out of town. She was working on rescheduling with all parties involved.
- Mr. Simons suggested that a potential BBA event could be a fireworks display.

- b) Business Recognition – Mrs. Leonard was not present but had sent Mr. Simons an update suggesting that the next presentations go to three existing businesses that have changed management or perhaps never were recognized. The group discussed the importance of focusing on new businesses given the limited budget for the year, but considered the possibility of a longevity certificate for long-term proprietors.

7) New Business

- Mr. Simons informed Mrs. Garcia that Leona Mainville needs to receive an official e-mail that the meeting agenda has been posted.

- 8) A motion to adjourn was made at 4:50 p.m. by Mrs. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Landis. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Cary Garcia, Secretary