

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 FEBRUARY 3, 2015

MINUTES

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

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

Chris Landis absent with notification.

Ron Ventura is sitting as an active voting member.

Also present: Rick Ives, First Selectman and Jana Roberson, Land Use Administrator.

2.) Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting January 6, 2014 - Marybeth Leonard made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as presented. Robert Simons second the motion. Motion carries.

3.) Public Commentary - None.

4.) Unfinished Business

a.) Brooklyn Business Association - Lyn LaCharite was unable to attend the last meeting held on January 20, 2015. Robert Simons and Marybeth Leonard both reported that the meeting was well attended. The officers from last year were re-elected to their positions.

b.) Brooklyn Signs - Lyn LaCharite updated the Commission on the vandalized signs. She is still waiting hear from Doug Gagnon of Gagnon signs regarding the price to repair.

She next reviewed the proposal that Jana Roberson had mentioned at last month's meeting regarding a sign on Route 6 coming from Killingly into Brooklyn. Discussion ensued. The EDC decided not to move further with this proposal as they already have a sign near Day Street in Brooklyn on Route 6.

c.) Nutmeg Signs - The Planning and Zoning Commission will discuss the proposed sign further at their next meeting, February 4, 2015. Lyn LaCharite feels that the decision could be done in house by Jana Roberson. Further discussion ensued

regarding the current owner, Racine Building, their sign and what kind of compromise could be done to allow Nutmeg International to have a sign for their business which is leasing part of the Racine building. Ronald Ventura and Lyn LaCharite will attend the P&Z meeting and report back next month.

5.) New or Other Business

a.) Appointments - Ronald Ventura and Andrew Pinto have been re-appointed to the EDC and both have accepted their appointments.

b.) Business Recognition - Suggestions for the upcoming recognition are Brooklyn Pizza, Brooklyn Market and the family who provides Christmas lighting at their house on Wauregan Road. Lyn LaCharite asked the Commissioners to send her more suggestions of businesses that are in operation which can be further discussed at the next meeting.

c.) EDC Role - Lyn LaCharite has been called by businesses who wish to open their business in the Town of Brooklyn. She feels there is a need for someone to be in the Town Hall to help these prospective businesses meet the requirements that they need in order to open a business. She further expanded that that she feels the role of the EDC is to try to bring in businesses that the Town would like to have. Further discussion was heard regarding smaller businesses that have tried to open in town since Wal-Mart has opened and are having difficulty with obtaining the permits etc.

Further discussion was heard regarding this issue. Rick Ives stated that the commercial build out is being worked on however he agrees that the Town needs to further discuss what types of businesses they would like to attract. He does feel that this is part of EDC's role but added that there needs to be some work on this process to help out the prospective business.

Further discussion ensued regarding the EDC being brought in on discussions that the town has with prospective businesses and not in the middle of the process. Lyn LaCharite also stated that she will call Bob Santi of CERC to see if he can give suggestions on how the Town can work on a recruiting process for prospective businesses. Andrew Pinto also suggested having a commercial realtor as a consultant/recruiter for new businesses.

Lyn LaCharite and Rick Ives will discuss this issue further.

6.) Adjournment - A motion was made by Robert Simons to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 pm. Second by Ronald Ventura. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Desrosier, Clerk