

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 OF JUNE 7, 2016

MINUTES

1.) Roll Call - Robert Simons, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm

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

2.) Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting May 3, 2016 – Cary Garcia made a motion to accept the regular meeting minutes of May 3, 2016 as presented. Motion second by Andy Pinto. Motion passes unanimously.

3.) Public Commentary:

- a.) AJ Kerouac reported that one of the CT news stations reported on a problem with clothing drop boxes in Cromwell. Cromwell is working on changing their current regulations to help eliminate this problem. AJ reports that he is paying close attention as Brooklyn continues to battle the same issue.
- b.) Mr. Kerouac also spoke regarding his feelings about the strength of the EDC's voice as the town revisits its POCD process. Robert Simons responded stating he is looking for direction from Rick Ives and other paid town employees such as Jana Roberson who are currently providing direction based on the Town's goals.

4.) Unfinished Business

- a.) Brooklyn Business Association - Robert Simons reported that Carla Demers, BBA President, left him a voicemail stating that the BBA does not wish to take over the presentation of plaques. Cary Garcia and MaryBeth Leonard are both on the BBA board and were not aware of the decision, but stated that there is an Executive Board meeting this Thursday, 6/9 at 5 p.m. Ms. Leonard will inquire into the decision.
- b.) Andrew Pinto revisited the request for a log of calls. Jane Roberson stated that when she has received calls in the past she would send an email to Lyn LaCharite and will continue to do so for Mr. Simons. She reports that she has not personally received any calls recently.

5.) New Business

- a) Director of Community Development in Brooklyn, Jana Roberson presented the Commission with the EDC Mission Statement as well as Brooklyn Town Code for the EDC, 2-15.2 Organization and Duties, providing clarification of EDC's role in

Brooklyn. Mr. Simons requests that commissioners review them before the next meeting.

- b) Ms. Roberson also provided the Commission with a copy of Stahl & Associates presentation, which is also available on the Town website, as a reference for goal-setting.
- c) Mr. Simons reported that he and Andrew Pinto will be attending the Selectman's Meeting on Thursday, 6/9 at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Simons plans to request that the salary for a paid part-time EDC Coordinator position be included in next year's town budget. He plans to emphasize how the position could pay for itself by increasing revenue. All Commissioners are invited to attend.
- d) Discussion continued with Ms. Roberson regarding the focus on Brooklyn's strengths. She recalled her graduate school project that highlighted the strength of Elder Services with Creamery Brook, Pierce Care, and an Elder Services attorney in town. The Fairgrounds is also another area of strength that could be further examined. AJ Kerouac suggested utilizing the resources of NECOG and Jim Larkin.
- e) Cary Garcia raised the issue of communication and the fact that although she is on the EDC, learned that someone is looking to open a dairy bar in town via an article in the Norwich Bulletin. Mr. Kerouac reported that 5 potential businesses have approached Planning & Zoning. Mr. Simons and Mr. Kerouac discussed the importance of having an EDC commissioner in attendance at all P&Z meetings as a way of keeping the EDC more informed. Mr. Simons suggested that perhaps members could rotate as attendees to be less burdensome.

6.) Other Business

- a) Fall Festival and Art Show – MaryBeth Leonard and Andrew Pinto reviewed this topic with the Commission. Ms. Leonard reported that the committee will be making a notice seeking out local craft people and artists. They will also be creating signage, notifying businesses, and seeking food vendors. The town has committed a small budget. Mr. Pinto complimented Cary Garcia on the ad she created for the festival which will be featured in The Last Green Valley's Walktober publication. The committee's next meeting will be held on 6/23 at 3:30 p.m. at The Barn at Gray Mare Hill.
- b) Collection boxes in town - At the last meeting, Mr. Ives stated that there really aren't any "teeth" in the regulations that will hold the box owner or land owner liable. The land owner does not have the right to remove the box from their property according to the current regulations. MaryBeth Leonard will find the regulations and send to Mr. Simons ahead of the Selectman's meeting on Thursday. She believes the regulations state that the boxes are in violation of our sign regulations and therefore the regulations do hold some weight, but need to be enforced. Mr. Pinto suggested that a permit be created for the boxes on private property, which would give rights to property owners.

7.) Adjournment - Motion to adjourn at 5:07 pm by Andrew Pinto. Second by MaryBeth Leonard. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cary Garcia, Secretary