

COVENTRY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

May 26, 2016, Town Hall Conference Room B

Roll Call: The meeting was called to order by the chair at 7:10PM. Members present were Sondra Stave, Bill Jobbagy, Mark Lavitt, Carol Polsky, Alex Konigsberg, Barbara Barry and Tim Liptrap. Dick Giggey and Sam Belsito were absent (excused) Staff present was Eric Trott.

A motion was made by Alex Konigsberg and seconded by Tim Liptrap to accept the minutes of the April 28, 2016 meeting. The motion, with no corrections, was approved by all in attendance.

Sondra reported that the Library expansion committee is discussing ownership of the Library to be transferred to the Town. She also said that a possible referendum for funding may be held in November.

Barbara has spoken with the owner of Nathan Hale Antiques on Main Street in the Village and wishes to invite him to an EDC meeting. All agreed.

Alex spoke with the owner of Skeleton Key BBQ, a local business owner and was impressed with his business acumen and suggested we talk more with him.

Carol and Eric noted recent discussions with the owner of the Lakeview restaurant. He has been approached by developers for his land on Woodland Road and Lake Street for apartments and commercial space. An issue facing this development (and other possible development in the Village) is that the waste water treatment plant is reaching its capacity. There is apparently a lot of infiltration of storm water which is taxing the capacity of the plant. WPCA is addressing the question which could have implications for future development.

Eric noted that the Town Council has approved a plan to bring natural gas from Mansfield Depot to the town hall and adjacent town buildings. Work will progress rapidly once started

Farmers Market: Eric reported that a Whole Foods store will be granting a portion of one day's revenues to the Market. All preparations are complete for the opening of the Market on June 5th. Highland Park Market has stepped up to become a substantial sponsor. The parking volunteers met today and are well organized for the market opening.

Business Survey: Eric reported that the business survey will be conducted in the month of June.

EDC Self Assessment; The CERC sponsored self assessment will be conducted later in the year in conjunction with Bolton. A report from an earlier assessment done by Tolland and Ellington was distributed and EDC members were urged to familiarize themselves with the items and questions.

Route 44 Sewers: Eric noted that discussions with Bolton and Manchester are going well.

Business Linkage with the Farmers Market: Eric noted that the town has hired an intern for the month of June. She is a local college student. Her task will be to gather information and interviews to determine the best ways to connect local businesses with the Market. EDC members will provide assistance.

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Target Site Development Plans: Concept plans are in the current budget and are prepared to promote a particular commercial property. Several sites were selected for concept planning including: The site behind CVS, the town owned property adjacent to Walgreens*, Route 44 at the Bolton line,* Pelletiers site on lower main Street, Daly Road at Route 31, the Devine property adjacent to the town hall, the Heckler-Nadeau property on Bread & Milk Street* and the Woodland Road/Lake Street site. Several were chosen to study further and are indicated by (*)

A motion was made at 8:55 to adjourn by Tim Liptrap and seconded by Carol Polsky.

The next meeting is June 23, 2016 in the Town Hall conference room B.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Jobbagy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Jobbagy
Vice-Chair