

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MINUTES
January 27, 2010

Present: Commissioners: Susan Ashelford, John DePalma,
Robert Kapusta, Susan Patrick, Genevieve Salvatore,
Cyrus Settineri, and Robert Stanton

Advisor:	Robert Gregory
Board of Aldermen Liaison:	Dan German
Press:	Brian McCready, NH Register

I. Mr. Gregory called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

II. Election of Chair

Mr. Gregory called for nominations.

Mr. Settineri was nominated by Mr. Kapusta and seconded by Mr. DePalma.

Ms. Salvatore was nominated by Ms. Ashelford and seconded by Ms. Patrick.

Hearing no other nominations Mr. Gregory closed the nomination process and called for a secret ballot.

Mr. Settineri was elected Chair by a 4-3 count.

III. Election of Vice Chair

Mr. Settineri assumed the Chair and nominated Ms. Patrick as Vice Chair seconded by Mr. Stanton. There were no other nominations so Ms. Patrick was elected unanimously.

IV. Chair Remarks

Mr. Settineri said one of his goals is to work cooperatively with other groups like the Chamber, MPI and the DMBA. One example was the "Shop Local" campaign. He thought the infusion of all the groups would give it more support.

Mr. Settineri said that the business visitation program was one that was successful last year. He understands that UI would support such a program and perhaps we could develop a

“Welcome to Milford” package that would include merchant discounts. Mr. DePalma agreed to head that committee assisted by Mr. Stanton.

A business survey was another idea advanced by the Chair. He said this would be a good way to gauge the direction of the EDC. It should be a one-page survey with a possible incentive for filling it out, he said. Mr. Settineri asked that the commission members come up with 5 questions for the survey.

Mr. Settineri called for the consensus of the commission on a meeting time. After discussion it was decided to leave the meeting time at 8 a.m.

The Chair said that reports should be kept at 3-5 minutes. He is instituting a public comment period at the beginning of the meeting. The Chair will recognize members of the public and allow speaking time to be limited to 1 ½ minutes.

The agenda will be sent out a week in advance to the members for input according to the Chair.

Ms. Salvatore raised the issue of adherence to City protocol in conducting the meetings. Mr. Settineri said he would adhere to those rules and regulations.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of November 25, 2009 were approved as presented.

VI. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Mr. Gregory said that he has seen increased activity in the office and at a regional meeting where a similar assessment was given.

Mr. Gregory highlighted developments in his report including Composition Material Company’s purchase of 249 Pepes Farm Road, PC Richard’s move into 1574 Boston Post Road, Q-Tran’s relocation from Bridgeport to 155 Hill Street and IRZ Group’s purchase of 101 River Street.

Mr. Gregory reported that the new City economic development website, www.milfordmeansbusiness.org, went live today. He welcomed input from the commissioners. More features will be added as the site develops. Web Solutions developed the site.

Ms. Salvatore said she had contacted Chris Grillo about a video promoting Milford for the site that he would provide gratis. All felt that was a good idea.

Mr. Gregory said that the boardwalk construction had begun in Walnut Beach and the committee has been meeting to handle the \$1 mil grant for enhancements to the area. The Devon project has just about completed Phase III and will finish this year with Phase IV extending the streetscape eastward on Bridgeport Avenue past the Flyer Diner.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. MANUFACTURING OUTREACH PROJECT

This will be incorporated into the Business Visitation Project.

B. Mr. DePalma suggested a luncheon honoring Mr. Kapusta and Ms. Salvatore as past chairs.

C. NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION

Ms. Patrick reported that the program is moving along well under the Health Department's direction. She suggested meeting with Dr. McBride to discuss progress. The Chair agreed that she should reach out to Dr. McBride.

D. SHOP LOCAL

The Chair suggested coordination with the Chamber and DMBA to promote the program.

E. STRATEGIC PLAN

Ms. Salvatore said that she would have a draft of the plan that she had developed after reviewing other plans from similar communities. The Chair suggested that the draft be sent to the committee in advance of the meeting for review.

F. KIMBALL REPORT

Mr. Settineri suggested Doug Novak as a speaker. Other speakers suggested were:

Jim Porto
Ken Hawkins

Representative from Westfield
Publisher of CT Post or NH Register
Sam Bergami
Chief LaVecchia
Ray Oliver
Steve Spector
A DMBA Representative
Chief Mello

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Milford Diner Update – Ms. Ashelford said that \$5,000 was raised at the recent fundraiser. Ms. Salvatore said they were in the process of obtaining non-profit status. She said there has been great community response. Discussion was held on the future uses of the diner.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Empty Storefronts – Discussion was held on the empty storefronts downtown and working with owners of the buildings to put displays in the windows. Ms. Ashelford, Ms. Patrick and Ms. Salvatore will work on this project. Mr. Gregory will contact the owners of Harrison's regarding their plans.

Ms. Patrick brought up the empty lot next to Harrison's. Contact will be made with the owner to determine if he would be receptive to a garden or other attractive use until it was developed.

Mr. DePalma brought up the idea of having street numbers on each of the buildings. Mr. Stanton said that numbers are required by ordinance. An effort will be made to promote numbering.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert B. Gregory