

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES of the Meeting of February 22, 2012

Present: Commissioners: Cyrus Settineri, John DePalma, Victor Ferrante, Robert Kapusta, John O'Neil, and Susan Patrick

Absent: Commissioner Robert Stanton and Advisor Kathy Alagno

Advisor: Robert Gregory

Guest: Jeffery from Momo Restaurant

Press: Brian McCready, NH Register

Others: Alderman Bryan Anderson

- I. Chairman Settineri called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.
- II. Minutes - The minutes of the meeting of January 25, 2012, were approved.
- III. Public Comments - None
- IV. Economic Development Activity

Mr. Gregory presented the Activity Report attached.
- V. Correspondence – None
- VI. Featured Business: Momo Japanese Restaurant

Mr. Jeffery was introduced as the featured business of the month. He said he has owned the business for about 6 months. He came from New York but loves Milford. Jeffery said that previous owners had an all-you-can eat concept. He and his wife are doing a more upscale concept. It has been difficult but business is improving.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Plan of Conservation and Development

Ms. Patrick presented an outline of recommendations to the Commission. She said that we should focus on tourism, economic development in Walnut Beach and Devon, strengthening the blight ordinance and focused economic activity. Chairman Settineri said that he had talked to Bob Smith who said a boutique hotel at Fowler Field would not work. Dean Allan Platus will present the downtown plan Wednesday, February 29th at the library.

Ms. Patrick said that there should be designated “hot spots” that should receive special attention for development. She will clarify that concept and how they should be designated. Discussion was held about previous plans and how they paved the way for quality development.

B. Broker’s Showcase

Chairman Settineri said that we are probably looking at May. He said Sen. Slossberg would be a good keynote speaker with Jocelyn Mathiasen to update the land use process. Possible sites were discussed including Schick, SBC, Stonebridge, Center for the Arts and the Hilton Garden Inn. Advice will be sought from Carl Russell of GJ Smith Realtors. A slide show of available properties could be produced and realtors should be encouraged to bring properties to the Showcase.

C. Agenda of Activities

Mr. O’Neil suggested a focus on downtown. He asked about criteria for the Business of the Month. The idea of a Tourism Task Force with the EDC, Chamber and Milford Progress was discussed. A film subcommittee was discussed. Jim Amann will be invited to discuss the movie business. Mr. O’Neil also thought that continued monitoring of the permitting process should be on the agenda.

D. Meeting Time

After discussion, the Commission voted to hold meetings at 8:30 a.m.

VIII. Old Business - None

IX. New Business

- A. Murals of Milford – Mr. Gregory said that he worked with the MFAC and the Murals of Milford committee to submit a grant application to the DECD Arts and Culture division to be painted on the side of 53 River Street. The Commission voted unanimously to endorse the idea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert B. Gregory