

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES of the Meeting of March 28, 2012

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

Absent: Commissioner Victor Ferrante

Advisor: Robert Gregory, Kathy Alagno

Guest: Richard Meisenheimer, Spectrum Associates

Press: Brian McCready, NH Register
Ryan Sartor, Patch.com

- I. Chairman Settineri called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.
- II. The minutes of the meeting of February 22, 2012 were approved as presented.
- III. Public Comments – None
- IV. Featured Business – Spectrum Associates

The Chair introduced Richard Meisenheimer who said that Spectrum Associates had been in Milford for 50 years at 6 different locations. The company is very involved in the community. They manufacture components for the aerospace industry. 95% of their products go up in the air.

Spectrum has about 75 employees with another 15 employees at another company called Cadcom. Mr. Meisenheimer said Milford has a great geographic location with access to I-95 and the Merritt Parkway. There is a good response to open positions but the applicants lack basic skills. The company trains their employees to a high level, as products must be “flight safe”. Employees have been with the company for a long time.

The most difficult problem as they have moved into different locations has been the local building permit process. They have not had any recent experience since the improvements in the system have been made.

Mr. Meisenheimer said that manufacturing atmosphere in Milford is good. The range of buildings and zoning allows that sector to grow.

In describing Spectrum's aerospace and commercial products he said they include “state-of-the-art crash-resistant breakaway valves, pressure switches, indicators and hydraulic subassemblies.

When discussing the fear that businesses will move to other states for economic reasons, Mr. Meisenheimer noted that owners need to weigh the pros and cons of relocating their business. He said that he believes that Sikorsky will remain in Connecticut for the foreseeable future.

Mr. Meisenheimer addressed the perception that the Connecticut legislature can sometimes give manufacturing a hard time. He doesn't think they intentionally try to drive business out but they put in place policies that they believe will be beneficial to the community at large without realizing that those benefits have a cost. He cited the unemployment compensation laws as an example.

When asked about what the EDC could do to encourage development was to make companies aware of Milford's properties, noting that if the right building comes along for a manufacturer, it can be a "perfect fit".

V. Economic Development Activity

Mr. Gregory reported that the Sailquest boat show would be held in Milford in May at Lisman Landing. NOAA will relocate a facility in New Jersey to its Milford's location. The former Comfort Inn on Old Gate Lane will be getting a total makeover into a Holiday Inn Express.

Mr. Kapusta noted that the Alarcon building in Devon had been sold to the owner of 6 Meineke Mufflers. He will move his corporate office as well as open a muffler shop there and close his present Post Road location.

VI. Correspondence – None

VII. Committee Reports

A. Plan of Conservation and Development

Recommendations will be sent to the Chamber of Commerce.

B. Broker's Showcase

Chairman Settineri said he had contacted Senator Slossberg and had a date of May 24th. Ms. Patrick said that the Hilton Garden Inn has a minimum of \$500. \$50 for a podium and \$50 for a screen. She will firm up contract with the hotel. Mr. Settineri said he would contact Carl Russell for his assistance. Mr. Kapusta offered to pay \$500 from the firm of Kapusta, Otzel and Averaimo. Milford Bank will be approached for \$500.

C. Agenda of Activities for the Year

Brokers Showcase
Feature Business of the Month

VIII. Old Business

A. Murals of Milford – Mr. Gregory reported that Milford did not receive a grant.

IX. New Business - None

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert B. Gregory