

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES of the Meeting of July 24, 2013

Present: Commissioners: Robert Kapusta, Chairman, Suzanne Cahill,  
John DePalma, and Victor Ferrante

Thomas Ivers – Interim Director

Guest: Silveras Sboui, Manager/VP People's United Bank

Absent: Commissioners Greg Harla, John O'Neil and Advisor  
Kathy Alagno

- I. Call to Order - Mr. Kapusta called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.
- II. Minutes – A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of June 26, 2013, as presented.

## APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

- III. Chairman's Report – Mr. Kapusta and Mr. Averaimo met with the Mayor on July 23 for a discussion regarding the Wayfinding Signs. Vincent Averaimo spoke at the MPI meeting on July 23 regarding the Wayfinding Signs as well. The conclusion of these meetings is that the State of Connecticut has determined that the City of Milford needs to get a permit from the Department of Transportation for the location of these signs. Mr. Averaimo has pursued the matter by contacting Ray Macaluso. Mr. Ivers stated that the issue for the State is that they need to preserve sight lines. The DOT wants to make sure there is not a visibility issue if a sign is placed in a particular area. They are proceeding on the City Attorney's advice to acquire these permits. Mr. Kapusta mentioned that the Mayor will be appointing someone to take Robert Stanton's place on the commission. The Mayor also recommended that the EDC have Joseph Griffith as the next speaker. The Mayor contacted Mr. Griffith and he has agreed to be the next guest speaker.
- IV. Public Comments – None
- V. Correspondence – Mr. Ivers stated that a thank you letter was sent to Bob Gregory for his service to the EDC, a thank you letter to Dan Kiley, an acceptance letter was mailed for the next speaker, Silveras Sboui, and a resignation acceptance went out to Bob Stanton.
- VI. Economic Development Activity – No Report
- VII. Guest Speaker – Silvi Sboui stated that she manages the flagship office of the People's United Bank on the Boston Post Road. Their first

office in Milford is on Broad Street. The bank has been in existence since the 1800's and People's Bank was only located in Connecticut when they decided to expand about five years ago to every single state in New England except for Rhode Island. They also have opened branches in Manhattan and in the Boston area. People's Bank has over 160 branches in Connecticut and overall they have over 360. Ms. Sboui continued a discussion on all of the services People's Bank provides to individuals and business owners. Ms. Sboui has been with the bank for 13 years. She started as a teller and continued on her way to management. Anyone that is hired at the bank is cross trained and this provides many opportunities for their employees. They have commercial loans that produce a lot of income for the bank and they are an extremely conservative bank. People's also has a People's United Bank Foundation that supports the local community any 501(c)(3) when it comes to lending and supporting local businesses they do what they can to help. People's Bank sticks to their specific guidelines and they continue to be extremely careful with all of the aspects of their banking trends. Ms. Sboui mentioned that the best idea People's came through with was having the People's branches located in all of the Stop & Shops. A discussion continued regarding new ideas for the need of People's Bank customers.

#### VIII. Standing Items/Committee Reports

- A. Boardwalk Repairs – The Mayor told Mr. Kapusta that all of the boardwalk repairs are completed. They continue to make minor changes and repairs.
- B. Colony Grill – Frosty Twist business has commented that business is extremely good since the opening of the Colony Grill. Ms. Cahill stated that there are two new businesses opening in the plaza.
- C. Chamber – No Report
- D. Visitation Report – Mr. DePalma stated that Pop's Restaurant has opened a brand new location on Old Gate Lane in Milford. It is thriving with its business. Retail on the green is not open on Sunday's because there really is not enough business to make opening worth while. Dan Lecetra is interested in purchasing the diner currently owned by the owner of SBC. He is willing to sell the diner, but the diner needs to be moved if purchased. The Kimberly diner is moving to the old Paul's location.

#### IX. Old Business – None

- X. New Business – Meghan in the MIS Dept. at the City of Milford spoke with Mr. Ivers and said that the South Central Regional Council of Governments is acquiring a software package that is a module that can tie into our computer system and it is for business analysis. They are purchasing this software package and making it available to its

member communities. It provides data on markets and it is intended to provide consumer market data so that businesses can better target their services and products to a specific area. It provides consumer spending demographic and business development data. They are unveiling it in their monthly meeting. This is a product to support local businesses.

There being no further new business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna E. Holden