

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MINUTES
November 25, 2009

Present: Commissioners: Genevieve Salvatore, Chair,
Susan Ashelford, John DePalma, Robert Stanton and
Tessa Marquis

Advisors: Robert Gregory, Kathy Alagno

Guests: Michael Leahy, Sean Henderson,
Mike Gilfeather and Virginia Turnbull from
Hudson Valley Bank

Press: Frank Juliano, CT Post
Brian McCready, NH Register

- I. Chair Salvatore called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.
- II. The minutes of the meeting of October 28, 2009, were accepted as presented.

The Chair noted the absence of the two new task forces on the agenda, Energy and Jobs.

- III. Economic Development Report

The report from the Director was included in the package of material for the commissioners.

- IV. Correspondence

The Chair noted that there was no official correspondence.

- V. Committee Reports

- A. Neighborhood Preservation

Ms. Marquis gave the background of the creation of the Anti-Blight Ordinance. She noted that the form was now online after a call to Mr. Gregory. One of the recommendations that was not included in the ordinance was a timeframe for response. Ms. Marquis submitted a complaint on October

20th. She followed up with a letter to Dr. McBride and received a response. (Both her letter and Dr. McBride's response are included as part of these minutes.) The question of whether or not the ordinance needed some tweaking was discussed. Two of the items taken out of the EDC recommendation were the creation of an Anti-Blight committee and a specific response time.

B. Manufacturing Outreach Project

No report.

C. Shop Local Campaign

Ms. Ashelford reported that an educational advertising campaign had begun.

At this point a motion to cancel the December meeting was made and seconded.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

D. Strategic Plan

The Chair noted that the first draft of the Strategic Plan would be presented at the January meeting.

E. Kimball Report

The Chair noted that an interim director has been hired as part of the reorganization of the land use departments. Discussion among commission members ensued.

VI. Old Business

- A. Milford Diner - Chair Salvatore reported that a board of directors has been formed to manage the finances and the renovation of the diner. A lease has been signed with the owner.
- B. Accomplishment – The Chair commended the commission for the work that they had done over the year. Ms. Marquis said that other volunteers should also be commended.

VII. New Business

- A. Budget – The Chair presented a budget that she had submitted on behalf of the commission for \$14,860. (Enclosed)
- B. Tax Office Hours – Chair Salvatore said that the tax office had reduced special hours during January and July for citizens. She was urging the City to restore those hours.
- C. Oxford – Chair Salvatore noted that Oxford was successful in attracting a liquor warehouse operation. It was suggested that the commission might learn why they didn't select Milford. The Chair said she would invite some representatives involved in the deal to speak to the EDC.

VIII. Guests – Mike Gilfeather, Sean Henderson, Virginia Turnbull and Michael Leahy from Hudson Valley Bank were introduced. (A copy of their presentation is attached.)

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

Respectfully submitted,
Robert B. Gregory