

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MINUTES
January 26, 2011

Present: Commissioners: Cyrus Settineri, Robert Kapusta, Genevieve Salvatore, and Robert Stanton. John DePalma arrived at 9:15 a.m.

Absent: Susan Patrick and Susan Ashelford

Advisors: Robert Gregory, Kathy Alagno
Press: Brian McCready, NH Register

I. Mr. Gregory called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

II. Election of Chair

Mr. Gregory called for nominations. Mr. Settineri was nominated by Mr. Kapusta and seconded by Mr. Stanton. Since there were no other nominations, one ballot was cast for Mr. Settineri. Mr. Settineri assumed the Chair.

III. Election of Vice Chair

Mr. Settineri called for nominations. He nominated Susan Patrick for Vice Chair. Mr. Stanton nominated Mr. Kapusta. Ms. Salvatore seconded that nomination. Mr. Settineri withdrew the name of Ms. Patrick and Mr. Kapusta was elected unanimously.

IV. Public Comments – None

V. Minutes - The minutes of the meeting of December 15, 2010, were approved as presented.

VI. Schedule of Meetings

The schedule of meetings as presented was adopted. Mr. Kapusta made a motion to change the meeting time to 12 noon. Seconded by Mr. Stanton.

MOTION PASSED BY A VOTE OF 3-1

VII. Communications

The Chair noted his letter to Mr. Garafalo. He banned the use of cell phones during meetings. Ms. Salvatore said that as an attorney she must be available to her clients.

VIII. Economic Development Report

Mr. Gregory noted that the unemployment rate ended the year at 8.6%. He said there are signs of an improving economy.

IX. Committee Reports

A. Brokers Showcase

Mr. Settineri said he would like to do the next one in April at ShowMotion. Discussion was held regarding date, place and speaker. The suggestion was made to do an e-vite.

B. Business Visitation – No Report

C. Business Survey

Mr. Gregory presented each member with a copy of the survey. Mr. Settineri suggested that members review it and come to the next meeting with comments.

D. Land Use and Permitting

Mr. Settineri said there are still some issues.

E. Plan of Conservation and Development

Ms. Salvatore said that she and Ms. Patrick were working on this issue.

F. 10-Year Economic Development Plan

Ms. Salvatore said that she had not heard any feedback after sending out samples of other town's plans. She has culled the best sections out for the commission to review. After discussion it was felt that an evening working session would be necessary to fully explore the issues.

Mr. DePalma opined that 10 years was too far out. It was agreed that the plan should be tiered in 3-5-8-and 10-year segments.

G. Shop Local – No Report

X. Old Business - None

XI. New Business

Mr. Settineri said that a company called Acoustics that had connections with the New Haven Symphony could produce a show at the Parsons Auditorium. Mr. Settineri thought that the event could be tied in with the restaurants and performers would go out after the show and play in various locations. After discussion, it was thought that it was a good idea but not for the EDC. Other groups like the MFAC would be approached to sponsor such an event.

Ms. Salvatore said that she was Chair of the Walk for Food Allergies event that had held an annual fundraiser and would like to move it to Milford. It would be held on the green in October. She has discussed the matter with the Mayor and he is supportive.

Future speakers announced by the Chair include the Mayor in February and Jocelyn Mathiasen in March. The Chair asked if Ms. Salvatore would contact the Governor about a May or June date to speak.

A drawing was held from the business cards submitted in the survey and the winner was Harriet Diamond from Composition Materials Co. Inc.

It was noted that Susan Ashelford has resigned from the Commission.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Robert B. Gregory