

MINUTES

WATERTOWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

TOWN HALL ANNEX CONFERENCE ROOM
THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2010 – 7:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Suzanne Church
John Manno
Joseph McGrail, Chairman
Theodore Migliarese, Secretary
Donato Orsini, Vice Chairman
Jack Traver
Jack Walton

ABSENT: None

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Patricia Pawlak
Charles Rowan

ALTERNATES ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Carl Mancini
Gary Martin
Donna Masi
Joseph Masi
Joseph Seacrist, Economic Development Coordinator
Judy Wick

1. Convene Regular Meeting - 7:30 P.M.

Mr. McGrail, Chairman, Called the Meeting to Order at 7:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Mr. McGrail, Chairman, executed the Roll Call.

3. Public Participation

Judy Wick, Northfield Road, Watertown, CT 06795

Gary Martin, Bella Vista Drive, Watertown, CT 06795

Joe Masi, Pleasantview Street, Oakville, CT 06779

Donna Masi, Pleasantview Street, Oakville, CT 06779

Ms. Wick, Mr. Martin, Mr. Masi, and Ms. Masi discussed the fact that a 5 member group was formed to watch over the proposed medical building in the business park by Dr. McHugh. They discussed the group's ideas of how to move this project forward, as it seems as though it's taking a long time. They suggested some text amendments and changes to the entire business park. A lengthy discussion ensued.

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4. Minutes

A. Special Meeting – January 7, 2010

MOTION: (Mr. Traver, sec. Mr. Migliarese) to approve the Special Meeting Minutes from January 7, 2010 as presented.

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Regular Meeting – January 21, 2010

MOTION: (Mr. Traver, sec. Mr. Orsini) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from January 21, 2010 as presented.

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Regular Meeting – February 18, 2010

Minutes were not available.

5. Correspondence

None

6. Economic Development Coordinator's Report

Mr. Seacrist, Economic Development Coordinator, gave a detailed report (attached).

7. New Business

A. EDC Budget

Mr. McGrail explained the E.D.C. budget that was presented to the Finance Subcommittee the other night. He asked for money for a D.E.C.D. economic impact study, the web site, and travel/seminars, special events and programs, and the Fall Festival booth. A brief discussion ensued.

MOTION: (Mr. Orsini, Mr. Walton) to endorse the proposed 2010/2011 budget for Economic Development as presented.

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

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B. Town Communications Proposal

Mr. McGrail discussed this proposal from his perspective, having served on the Fire Department in Town. A brief discussion ensued.

MOTION: (Mr. Migliarese, sec. Mr. Manno) to support the concept of the Town Communications Proposal.

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

C. 5 Accomplishments for 2010 (brainstorming)

Mr. McGrail was hoping to have a brainstorming session to choose 5 items to accomplish this year. He suggested they bring their ideas to the next meeting.

D. Speaker from D.E.C.D. in April or May

Mr. McGrail reported he was going to invite a representative from the Department of Economic and Community Development to come to the May meeting to discuss the economic impact study or how to define this Town from a growth standpoint.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

A. Meet and Greet

Mr. Seacrist reported the Connecticut Dance Theater has not responded and he just found out today that they are moving to where the Knothole Furniture store used to be. They probably won't want to entertain this commission as they did in the past, so we may have to rent a space for this event. We also need a date for the event. Mr. McGrail stated they will choose a date at the April meeting. Mr. Migliarese will check into utilizing the Westbury Room to host the event.

B. Creation of Business Association – Watertown/Oakville

Mr. McGrail reported they tried to do this a couple of years ago. Mr. Seacrist had talked to several people but no one wanted to spearhead it at that time. Currently Lynn McHale seems ready to spearhead this group and hopefully we can do something with this before the next meeting.

C. Street Lamp Project for Downtown Watertown/Oakville

Mr. Seacrist reported Mr. Cavanaugh will be submitting a formal, written proposal for these street lamps. The estimate will be in the millions because they have to tear up the street, tear up the sidewalks, and cross a State highway to put in all of the necessary power lines. A brief discussion ensued.

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D. Farmer's Market 2010

Mr. Seacrist reported the Farmer's Market will be held again this year, the same month, starting after the 4th of July, in the same location. Swapping locations between Oakville and Watertown was discussed, however the market people felt the current location has been very successful and easily accessible.

E. Town Council Subcommittee Meeting

This was already discussed earlier, however this meeting will be Monday, March 22nd at Swift Middle School at 7:00 p.m. and Mr. Orsini and Mr. Seacrist will attend.

F. Power Plant Update

Already discussed earlier.

MOTION: (Mr. Traver, sec. Mr. Migliarese) to add agenda Item 8G, Non-Conforming Use.

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

G. Non-Conforming Use

Mr. Seacrist reported the letter was dated April 10, 2007 and was originally discussed by this Commission at that time. A brief discussion ensued. The owner has been invited to attend the next meeting in April.

Mr. Traver asked if there was any conversation regarding the demolition/construction at the drive-in site?

Mr. McGrail replied no, but the final draft was at the Department of Environmental Protection and once they sign off on it, he can start the remediation.

Mr. Seacrist stated he was told the remediation can be done fairly quickly; if they get the Department of Environmental Protection's approval within the next 30 days, they can still plan for Spring construction.

A brief discussion ensued.

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9. Adjournment

MOTION: (Mr. Migliarese, sec. Mr. Orsini) to Adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Regular Meeting Adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph McGrail, Chairman
Watertown Economic Development Commission

Approved: _____
Lynn M. LaForme, Clerk