

MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MARCH 15, 2012 - 12:15 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX - COMMUNITY ROOM 3

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Fafard, Obrey, Mathanool, Dowling, Smith, Kadri
Staff: Strother
Other: Council Liaison Johnson, RTM Liaison DeMatto, Brian Hancock and Eric Beeson, IT Staff; Robert Frink, Citizen

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION - None

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRURY 16, 2012 AND FEBRUARY 23, 2012 (Website Subcommittee)

MOTION: To approve the February 16, 2012 and February 23, 2012 Web Site Subcommittee minutes.

Motion made by Dowling, seconded by Smith, so voted unanimously

IV. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Follow Up on 2012 Strategic Planning Session - Web Page

An update was provided on the work that has been underway on the Economic Development portion of the Town's Web Page. Bill Smith commended Bob Frink for all the effort that he has put into this project. He also noted that the Town's IT staff has been working with the Web Site Committee and all are encouraged that they can do the majority of the changes the Committee is proposing. Eric Beeson provided an overview of the new designs, photos and information that has been added to the draft Economic Development portion of the web site. This included a presence on the front of the Town's web page. Suggestions regarding photos and other elements were discussed. Staff is in the process of getting a variety of different photos from several sources. Bill Smith distributed information on potential tag lines that have been suggested, and requested that the group email him/Barbara their 3 top preferences on tag lines by March 20th.

It was decided that the Web Site Subcommittee will meet again on Friday, March 23rd at 10:00 a.m.

2. Discussion of Proposed Legislative Bills

Two proposed Legislative Bills were sent to the Economic Development Commission with their agenda package. The first is Raised Bill No. 66, An Act Concerning Economic Development.

Bruce Fafard has been in discussions with the Eastern Connecticut Chamber's Legislative Committee and their Lobbyist, Jay Levin, on this bill which they believe could have a positive effect on Southeastern Connecticut as it includes a study committee to review issues such as "development of all geographic regions of the state." The Statement of Purpose for the bill includes establishing a task force to study ways in which the state may encourage the growth of business, stimulate job growth and increase state and municipal tax revenue, and address concerns regarding availability of financing. Fafard believes this could help the State focus on the reuse of

the available Pfizer buildings, and hopefully there will be an opportunity for someone from Southeastern Connecticut to serve on the Task Force or participate in any other separate efforts which might be undertaken regarding the opportunities the reuse of the buildings could provide.

The second draft bill sent to the Commission was Raised Bill No. 5343, which is An Act concerning Economic Development Through Streamlined and Improved Brownfield Remediation Programs. Among the benefits Fafard believes this bill is assisting with fast track funding for these projects.

After discussion, the following action was taken:

MOTION: The Economic Development Commission supports a letter written by Chairman Fafard, in support of Raised Bill No. 66 and Raised Bill No. 5343.

Motion made by Dowling, seconded by Obrey and so voted unanimously.

The Commission also felt it would be helpful if they could meet with the realtor for the available Pfizer buildings for an update and to determine if there is any assistance they can provide. Strother will contact the realtor and invite him to the April EDC meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

George Mathanool Secretary
Economic Development Commission

Prepared by Barbara Strother
Economic Development Specialist