

TOWN OF SALEM, CT.

Economic Development Commission

Regular Meeting, May 16, 2016, 7:30 p.m. Salem Office Building, Room 2

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Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:41 pm by meeting chair Frank Sroka.

Members present:

Frank Sroka

Ken Bondi

Elby Burr (Alternate)

Paul Robillard (Alternate)

Members not present:

Andy Lightner

Ada Vaill

Wendy Mikolinski

Visitors:

Stu Gadbois (Board of Selectmen Liaison to EDC)

1. Reading of Agenda – chairperson

Frank Sroka presented agenda. One change was made to discuss and act on the resignation of member Ada Vaill, who has submitted her resignation to the Town Clerk.

Frank Sroka appointed Elby Burr and Paul Robillard as regular members for this meeting to replace those members who were absent.

Motion: Ken Bondi moved to accept the resignation of Ada Vaill, with regret. Seconded by Elby Burr. Unanimously approved.

Motion: Elby Burr moved to approve the Minutes for 03/21/2016 meeting. Seconded by Ken Bondi. Unanimously approved.

2. Communications

Frank Sroka reviewed an email from Kevin Lyden concerning a suggestion by R&W Heating of Salem to consider a business showcase type of program that would allow local Salem businesses to showcase their products and services by means of a rotating static display in either the Town Library or Town Office building so that residents could learn about the various businesses in town. This suggestion was received positively by EDC; Frank will follow up with Kevin Lyden to discuss details and assign responsibilities.

A suggestion was received to publicize events at the Pavilion by means of an appropriate sign at the roundabout (example: the recent St. Hubert Kennel Club two-day event at the Pavilion, which was a major activity, was never publicly announced; residents found out about it through an article in the Day paper). This suggestion was received positively; Frank will follow up with Kevin Lyden

3. Public Comment

None

4. Reports

- a. Selectman / EDC Liaison: None
- b. P&Z Liaison: None

5. Old Business

- a. Frank Sroka will follow up with the First Selectman to review and evaluate any responses to the Our Town Salem Business Owners Survey. Based on these returns, we will decide whether to repeat the article in the Salem Our Town newspaper, or perhaps conduct a direct mailing to all Salem businesses of record.
- b. The Commission discussed moving ahead with developing more information from the list of non-residential zoned land in Salem provided by Town Planner Richard Serra. Frank asked each EDC member to identify key data elements they think we should obtain, and to then email their suggestions to him with a cc to the rest of the Commission members. Frank and Wendy will then develop a spreadsheet of desired data, and Frank will meet with Kevin Lyden to scope the details of the data to be requested from the Assessor's Office.

6. New Business

- a. Potential uses for town-owned land. Frank stated he will meet with Kevin Lyden and Town Planner Richard Serra to discuss this topic in more detail. Results of this meeting will be discussed at a future EDC meeting.
- b. Members present discussed the ongoing review of P&Z regulations pertaining to business operations and development of such projects as work force housing and

senior (age restricted) housing at potential locations in Salem, possibly to include town-owned land (see 6.a above).

c. Frank Sroka asked each EDC member to consider and record ideas on how to market Salem to prospective business developers. We (EDC) will then invite town planner Richard Serra and Kevin Lyden to participate in a group meeting with EDC where these ideas can be presented and discussed. Output of this process is planned to result in a specific marketing plan to be implemented in FY 2016/17.

7. Next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 20, at 7:30 p.m. in Salem Town Hall, Room 2.

Motion by Elby Burr, seconded by Paul Robillard to adjourn the meeting. Carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Sroka, Chair, Salem Economic Development Commission