

TOWN OF SALEM, CT.

Economic Development Commission

Regular Meeting, November 21, 2016, 7:30 p.m. Salem Office Building, Room 2

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:34 pm by meeting chair Frank Sroka.

Members present:

Frank Sroka

Ken Bondi

Wendy Mikolinski

Elby Burr (Alternate)

Paul Robillard (Alternate)

Members not present:

Andy Lightner

Visitors:

Richard Serra

Stu Gadbois

1. Reading of Agenda – chairperson

Frank Sroka presented agenda. One addition to the minutes was the announcement that the 2017 EDC meeting calendar was forthcoming at the next scheduled meeting.

Motion: Ken Bondi moved to approve the Minutes for the November 7, 2016 meeting. Seconded by Elby Burr. Unanimously approved.

2. Communications

None

3. Public Comment

None

4. Reports

a. Selectman / EDC Liaison:

None

b. P&Z Liaison:

Town Planner Rich Serra presented 3 topics to the EDC Committee.

Firstly, Rich discussed a Regional Town Planners meeting held in Colchester in early November which was proposed and sponsored by the Chair of the Colchester EDC. The goal of the meeting was for the Colchester EDC to announce an intended Economic Development Study for growth in targeted areas of Colchester. The Colchester EDC is seeking support from surrounding towns, including Salem, for the project as any development may impact those surrounding areas.

After discussing the details of the meeting, Salem's EDC agreed to support Salem and Rich Serra's involvement in the project.

Secondly, Rich discussed the state's Farm Viability Grant, and Southeastern Connecticut Council of Government's (SCCOG) application for grant money through this fund. The goal of SCCOG is to co-ordinate a multi-town working group to consider, discuss, and plan innovative agricultural uses for the region.

Lastly, Rich reported that an out of state company has requested use of space on Witch Meadow Road for a large communications tower. The projected tower would be 120' and occupy space within the town street's "right of way" borders, placing the tower relatively close to the roadside. Rich stated that Salem is one of many towns that have been targeted by this company for similar proposals and will keep the EDC updated as information becomes available.

5. Old Business

- a. Wendy Mikolinski and Paul Robillard finalized a plan to complete the town list needed to move forward on the business owners' survey project. The final list will be presented at the next EDC meeting.
- b. Elby Burr and Rich Serra each presented information regarding potential age restricted (senior) housing for Salem. Rich reported that Salem's P&Z Committee is currently discussing regulations and considering options and opportunities in this area. Rich also provided the EDC committee with a review of the state statutes and potential regulatory bodies involved in a housing development project – each which is dependent upon complex size (number of units), water use, sewer access, etc. Elby discussed his intention of proposing an initial plan for Senior Housing in Salem and will present this at a future meeting.

6. New Business

None

7. Next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 19, at 7:30 p.m. in Salem Town Hall, Room 2.

Motion: Ken Bondi motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Paul Robillard. Carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.