

Economic Development Commission (EDC)

Regular Meeting ■ 7:30 PM, February 17, 2009 ■ Salem Town Offices ■ Salem, Connecticut

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM.

Present: Frank Sroka, Dana Abetti, Joe Duncan, George Householder, Sean Reith, Larry Stevens

Absent: Dave Kennedy

2. Seating of Alternates

Dana moved to seat George Householder, Sean seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Changes to Agenda

No changes.

4. Approval of Minutes from January's Regular Meeting

George moved to approve the minutes as written. Sean seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Communications

- 2008 Connecticut Economic Review, published by Northeast Utilities: This document compares Connecticut to other states on a variety of key economic indicators. Examples include: Foreign Direct Investment, Per Capita Income, Energy Efficiency, Health of Population, New Economy Industry, Manufacturing Value Added. Much of the latest data available is from 2006 and 2007. This is available online at: <http://www.teamnewengland.com/Data-Center.aspx>
- The commission members recalled a letter from Bob Ross to the Governor recently posted on the Salem website. The letter referenced projects for which Bob is requesting ARRA (stimulus package) funding. The Four Corners round about was not mentioned.

6. Public Comment

7. Reports

- First Selectman: No Update
- Liaison to Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z): Sean Reith and Gloria Fogarty: No Update
- Liaison to the Salem Town Center Committee (STC): Dana Abetti: The STC will be presenting zoning change recommendations to the Planning & Zoning commission on February 24.
- Liaison to the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) Refresh: Dana Abetti: Let Dana know what topics we want to address in the EDC portion of the POCD by February 27. Send questions to her by March 16. Frank will talk with Bob about checks and balances to ensure there is republican representation on the Vision Committee, which is linked to the POCD.

8. Old Business

- EDC Budget 2008 and 2009/2010: Frank shared the EDC budget with the commission, as it stands today.
- Economic Development Action Plan progress
 - Target Commercial Tax Base, Sean Reith: No Update
 - EDC Plan Critical Initiatives:
 - Goal 1: Take Care of Local Businesses: Sean Reith, Dave Kennedy;

Frank Sroka, Chair

Dana Abetti ■ Joe Duncan ■ George Householder ■ Dave Kennedy ■ Sean Reith ■ Larry Stevens

- Rejuvenate Four Corners: An invitation is currently being drafted. We will need to include an attendance sheet. Possible agenda items include:
 - Introductions: Larry Stevens
 - EDC Goals & Charter
 - Four Corners Roundabout
 - General Business
 - Business Owners Association
- Although the current focus is on Four Corners, due to work capacity of the EDC, the commission wants to help local businesses outside of Four Corners. Larry agreed to serve as an ombudsperson for local businesses.
- Goal 2: Foster New Economic Growth: Joe Duncan, Dana Abetti
 - Identify ED opportunities that fit within the Salem community: This is being handled through the POCD efforts.
 - Process to identify and champion new business opportunities: The next step is to meet with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission to discuss the proposed process. Then, meet with the leadership council to share the information.

9. New Business

No new business

10. Adjournment

Dana moved to adjourn. George seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:28 PM.