

Economic Development Commission

Regular meeting 7:30 PM February 27, 2012 Salem CT Town Offices

1. Call to order
 - a. Attending: Larry Stevens, Dana Abetti, Todd Nechamen, Andrew Bialobrodec, Frank, Soroka, Lou Damico
 - b. Absent:
2. Changes to Agenda:

*Larry moved to adjust the local business ombudsperson's report to the beginning to allow Andrew and Todd to speak.

 - a. Frank suggested that if Andrew has any issues with the landlord it may be a good idea to speak with Kevin Lyden because he may have a more productive conversation with the landlord.
 - b. Idea revisited about looking into the waterless toilet systems for the Salem four corners.
 - c. Larry suggested the idea about getting all of the business owners together to have a committee of some kind.
 - d. Frank filled in Todd and Andrew about the time frame with the rotary and the construction. Pointed out that the rotary may cause some traffic problems and prepare for the possibility of one way road situations. It may be especially difficult because signage is going to detour people away from the four corners.
 - e. Larry brought up the idea that money may be available in the budget to help facilitate associations to improve the Salem Marketplace.
 - f. Dana Abetti: Planning and Zoning tidbit... P&Z is trying to help people focus on fact based. Dana also pointed out that the primary goal is for us to go after businesses that will be a good fit for the town. We want to go after a "sweet spot" conceptually- a certain type of business that we should proactively reach out to.
 - g. Todd pointed out that he feels that the town is being to selective about the type of businesses that we are "allowing." He feels that Planning and Zoning makes it too difficult for people to bring businesses to come in town.
 - h. Put notifications of upcoming meetings for the town in Our Town of Salem
 - i. Todd suggested having a business directory available for people at the farmer's market- Jen reminded us that we were thinking about having a Salem map which will point out the local business.
3. Approval of minutes from last meeting

- a. Motion for minutes to be approved: Motion passed
 - b. Motion carried to accept the meetings
4. Communications: Emphasize the POCD meeting tomorrow night: 7:00 Feb 28 2012. This will determine what the town wants to look like for the next ten years. This is the public's chance to come in and comment and make suggestions. Dana summarized the economic development aspect of the POCD.
5. Reports
 - a. Board of selectmen
 - b. Liaison to Planning and Zoning Commission: Seth Reith and Gloria Fogarty
 - c. Plan of Conservation and Development: Dana Abetti
6. Old business: Jen is working on "Salem Days" having a whole weekend of events throughout Salem, and doing a passport for people to get stamped at the local businesses. This will also include a map of Salem and the hiking trails.
 - a. Nicole: get a list of the Salem businesses from the assessor's office
7. New business:
 - a. Sad news: Farm to Hearth is relocating to Haddam- Larry is going to be looking for a place that maybe we could try to help them find to stay in town.
 - b. Possibly look into putting a pharmacy or small supermarket in town... what are the issues with this?
 - c. Next meeting will be the 3rd Monday of March 19th. 7:30 in room 1.
8. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn by Frank at 9:04 pm
Motion seconded by Larry
Adjourned at 9:05 pm