

Town of Salem
Economic Development Commission
Minutes from regular meeting Feb 26, 2018

1. Meeting called to order 7:30PM

Members present:

Frank Sroka (Chair)	Andy Lightner
Elbert Burr	Adam Scott
Paul Robillard	James Bee (alt)

Members Absent:

Selectman representative: Stu Gadbois

Guests: David Bingham

2. Communications: None.

3. Changes to the agenda: David Bingham presentation.

Frank introduced David and indicated we would have a discussion after David finished. David gave us a brief talk on his background, college, Army, medical schooling, farming, Land Trust, and land preservation work. He went on to lay out a program that would help finance land preservation work through a 1% tax on buyers of homes in the town of Salem applied after the first \$150,000 of the purchase price. He indicated the state was planning to support the tax provision providing each individual town approved the tax; decision on buying into this program by the town is voluntary. He gave several scenarios that outlined the use of the funds after they were collected. There was some discussion, along with questions by EDC members, after David finished and no decision was made. The idea was tabled for the time being.

4. Approval of January minutes: Motion to approve Paul, second, Elby. Discussion by Andy to correct part of his presentation to reflect the source of his test and the purpose of the test. Paul requested we vote to approve the minutes with Andy's suggested correction. The vote was unanimous.

5. Communication: The town's Ethics Policies were distributed to the members, they signed and returned copies to Elby for delivery to the Selectman's office. Frank distributed copies of the EDC Annual report to the town for member approval. A vote was taken and approved.

6. Public Comment: Elby reported on P & Z's Town Planner's report on revising the town's plan of development regulations; also, along the same lines, looking at revisions to the business and commercial zones with the possible expansion of the business zones. The Town Planner felt a new business survey would help support the changes. All these items were contained in EDC's draft 5 years plan.

7. New Business: Further discussion was held on Andy's Facebook program. To aid in Andy's Facebook research, Paul turned over all the results from EDC's past direct mail test. In addition, much of the advertising done by The Day newspaper was added to Andy's research.

8. Old Business. Several vendors have asked as to when the business directory might be published. There was a suggestion made to consider developing a "welcome kit" for new residents and businesses locating in Salem.

10. Next Meeting Date

Monday, March 19, 2018, at 7:30 in Room 2, Salem Town Hall

11. Adjournment.