

Town of Salem
Economic Development Commission
Minutes from regular meeting March 19, 2018

1. Meeting called to order 7:30 PM

Members present:

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

Members Absent:

Selectman representative: Stu Gadbois It is with a sad heart we said goodbye to Stu Gadbois. He will be missed not only for his presence on the EDC but as Selectman and as a longtime member of the town. We wish his wife and family the very best as Stu left a legacy they can all be very proud of.

We also welcomed new (alternate) member Amie Hoinsky to membership on EDC. Amie just opened a new business in town, above the Two Brothers Restaurant, and she will provide new ideas and perspective to EDC's projects going forward. Welcome Amie!

1. Approval of minutes: February minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

2. Communications: Frank had a good meeting with Salem's new town planner Kate Rattan. She is working on plans to upgrade the town's position on the affordable housing regulation, along with senior housing and lot sizes. We look forward to her progress in this area.

Public Comment: No new P & Z news on development and regulations changes this month.

3. Old Business: Paul talked about the original mail survey EDC sent out to a couple hundred of Salem's town businesses. Results from the direct mail returns are being studied. We are working closely with Andy to analyze those results using Facebook as a stepping stone approach to further understand the needs of Salem businesses, both storefront and home occupations.

One of the plans being called for is to develop a Business Directory listing by category the many businesses with a map locator for business source locations.

Some discussion was held on what progress is being made on P & Z's new restricted age program being set up behind the current drugstore and fitness building. More on this later as it develops.

There was a good discussion about continuing concerns re: the Salem Town Center at the roundabout, specifically the lack of public restrooms, the general appearance and lack of maintenance to the facility and, more importantly, what can be done to improve this important part of the "gateway to Salem" and the public's first impression of our business district. Frank stated that he would contact Kevin Lyden to discuss this.

4. New Business: Frank discussed looking into the possible use of town-owned land for additional business and housing projects. Working closely with the First Selectman and P & Z, the EDC committee was looking at the panorama of businesses Salem currently has and discussing possible additions to some of the current areas, such as a general food market possibly located on Rt. 82 West leading into town. EDC is moving forward on its five year plan under Andy's basic outline, and we are filling in the blanks as we go.

5. Next Meeting: Monday, April 16, 2018, at 7:30 in Room 2, Salem Town Hall.

6. Adjournment: 9:15 PM. Voted unanimously.