

Town of Salem
Economic Development Commission
Minutes from regular meeting April 16, 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)

New Member: Amie R. Hoinsky (alt)

2. Approval of minutes: March 19, 2018 minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

3. Communications: Frank invited First Selectman Kevin Lyden and zoning enforcement officer Liz Burbick to discuss current conditions at the Salem Town Center which have been in existence for quite some time and EDC feels need some further attention.

Kevin reported that past and current owners of the Salem Town Center property have been difficult to work with on things like signage, trash pickup, septic tank cleaning and leaching field problems, traffic, grass cutting and some kind of uniform signage which can be read clearly on the Center billboard. Kevin went on to explain that he could not do things to enhance the individual businesses but can work to keep the property owner's responsibility enforced. He has the UNCAS Health District on hand for health issues and the enforcement officer available for signage and traffic. Kevin suggested that a picket fence might help to improve the look of the property and help to discourage any excess signage installed by the individual business owners that appears along the road area. Kevin asked if the EDC wanted to discuss some of the problems directly with the owner. No decision was made here but enforcement seems to be the current solution that needs to be reinforced and Kevin has agreed to help with this area.

Paul suggested we work on this a step at a time, possibly install the fence first, work on the main billboard signage, then speak with the business owners and then the property owner. Perhaps a walk thru review of the property would get the project a more up-to-date overview of the businesses and general condition of the area roads, storefronts, sidewalks and signage. We could also discuss with individual business owners their concerns and positive points in order to help develop a strategy for this area of the business district.

4. Public Comment: Elby indicated no new P & Z news on development and regulations changes occurred this month.

5. Old Business: Paul brought in the final result of the small town business survey and the names were put into a prize drawing. A picture was taken of the ticket drawing and the winner will be given a free half page ad in Salem's Our Town Newspaper (to be paid for out of EDC's annual approved budget).

6. New Business: None

7. Next Meeting: Monday, May 21, 2018, at 7:30PM in Room 2, Salem Town Hall.

8. Adjournment: 9:00 PM.