

The Economic Development Commission (EDC) held their regular meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at the Notch Road Municipal Center, Room 9 with Vice Chair Scott Rich presiding. Commission members present were Cathy Teller, Milton Hathaway and William Anderson (7:32 p.m.). Member Neal Kerr was excused. Recording Secretary Linda McDonald was also present.

I. Call to Order

S. Rich called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

II. Approval/Modification of Minutes of March 24, 2015 Meeting:

Approval of the regular meeting minutes of March 24, 2015 was tabled to a future meeting.

III. Public Comment/Introduction of Guests: Selectman Gwen Marrion said that she would like to keep the communication between the EDC and Board of Selectmen (BOS) open. She said she is here tonight to listen. Members of the EDC shared information on a business owner in town approached to put in a Dunkin Donuts at his location and his inability to do so because the current zoning regulations do not allow drive-throughs.

IV. On-going Business:

A. Commission Members' Reports

1. P & Z Activities: S. Rich said a special permit application for a zoning regulation change to allow drive-throughs will be brought to the PZC.

2. Vibrant Communities Initiative (VCI) Grant: S. Rich reported that he learned that the bonding package has been broken into two phases and the bonding proposal for the Heritage Farm barn renovations will be deferred to the second phase in 2016. G. Marrion said she cannot tolerate the barn sitting in its current condition for two years (scorched by a recent fire) and thinks the bonding for the barn to be made into a three season event space should be addressed in this fall package and brought to town meeting. The BOS hasn't met since the barn fire to discuss this possible action. Discussion followed.

3. Regular meetings with Land Use Boards: One meeting has taken place. W. Anderson suggested that Sanitarian Holly Hood and Wetlands Agent Barbara Kelly be present at the next meeting to address LID regulations questions.

4. Outreach:

a. Route 44 Trail Team: C. Teller referred to an email dated 4/22/2015 from G. Marrion regarding the proposed trail between Quarry Road and Indian Notch Road and the 4/17/2015 meeting between the Bolton trail team and the Department of Transportation (DOT). G. Marrion said the BSC Group will incorporate DOT's comments into their plan and meet with the Bolton trail team before finalizing their feasibility study.

b. Bolton Women's Club (BWC) Long Term Project: C. Teller reported that the BWC has chosen to support the "Welcome to Bolton" signs as their next long term project. Any action will not occur until the fall. Discussion followed on tying this project with the EDC branding project.

c. TCCC EDC subcommittee: M. Hathaway reported that discussion at these luncheons centers on various member towns of the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce EDC activities.

B. Bolton Business Yellow Pages: W. Anderson reported that he is finalizing the business yellow pages spreadsheet for publication on the Town's website. Discussion followed on the difficulties encountered during the process of getting the proper information to compile the list.

C. Update EDC Website/Mission: S. Rich distributed copies of the information on the current EDC website, some of which is outdated. He handed out examples of EDC mission statements, goals, and responsibilities from other towns and shared a first draft webpage proposal with the Bolton EDC members for review and editing for discussion and vote on at a future meeting.

D. Branding Project: Brainstorming followed on:

Principles of Branding: (examples of how Bolton is perceived): Some ideas included clean air, good schools, rural character, farms and streets, Munson's, Ice Palace, Simonize, equestrian-centered activities, Bolton Vet, water quality and abundance, lakes, great open space, rail trail, Heritage Farms, multi-generational families living and staying in town, proximity and accessibility to airport, UCONN, community colleges, major highways, town is stable and safe, and banquet facilities.

Brainstorming continued with the question: What are some of the experiences and activities you do in Bolton? Ideas included cross country skiing, cross country running on rail trail, mountain biking, local fruits and vegetables, employment opportunities, water sports (wind surfing, paddle boarding, kayaking and canoeing), Revolutionary War encampment, Pastor Jonathan Edwards, and the 300th year anniversary of Bolton coming up.

Next step is to cross out things that are static and to determine the market you want to address. C. Teller will distribute the list of ideas compiled at this meeting to members before the next meeting.

V. New Business:

A. Budget Balance: C. Teller reported that the Economic Development Trust Fund currently has a balance of \$2,140.11. As of 4/30/2015 the EDC operational expense account has a balance of \$1,560.00. Discussion followed on requesting the operational funds be transferred to the Economic Development Trust Fund. C. Teller will contact Joyce Stille about this request. A shotgun golf tournament involving business owners was suggested for next year.

VI. Announcements:

A. The next EDC Regular Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 9 of the Notch Road Municipal Center.

VII. Adjournment: The meeting ended at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Linda H. McDonald

Please see minutes of subsequent meetings for the approval of these minutes and any changes to them.