

The Economic Development Commission (EDC) held their regular meeting on Tuesday, October 28, 2014 at the Notch Road Municipal Center, Room 9. Commission members present were Neal Kerr, Milton Hathaway, Bill Anderson and Cathy Teller. Also present was Selectman Gwen Marrion.

- I. Call to Order: Mr. Kerr called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.
- II. Approval/Modification of Minutes of September 30, 2014 meeting:  
A motion was made by Mr. Hathaway seconded by Ms. Teller to approve the minutes of the September 30, 2014 meeting as presented. Motion passed with Mr. Kerr and Mr. Rich abstaining.
- III. Public Comment/Introduction of Guests: Gwen Marrion was present to discuss a potential request from a current land owner to put a Dunkin Donuts (with drive thru) in the Cider Mill area. Ms. Marrion reported this was second hand information; however there has been discussion that the developer would be willing to donate \$250,000 to the Town of Bolton Open Space Fund, if the zoning regulation was changed to allow a drive thru. Ms. Marrion requested input from EDC regarding the history of the regulation, and would this be a revision that EDC would support. Ms. Teller briefly described how the establishment of the regulation prohibiting drive thru's came in to place. She explained that in the early 2000's the Smart Growth Principles were put into place. The plan was to have "nodes" that would encourage people to stop and visit multiple places, rather than "driving through". The group shared individual opinions of the current regulation.

Ms. Marrion requested permission to report to the Board of Selectmen regarding the discussion of the Smart Growth Principles that were put into place for the 2005 Plan of Conservation and Development. Additionally there is general support of the EDC to allow drive thru's as long as they are part of a development that demonstrate the Smart Growth Principles; part of a node. By consensus, the members agreed this was an accurate report. The group agreed to contact Director of Community Development, Patrice Carson regarding the issue, and continue discussion on the topic.

- IV. On-going Business:
  - A. Commission Members' Reports
    1. P&Z Activities:
      - Three house subdivision was approved
      - There will be a special meeting to decide which firm will be selected to write the 2015 Plan of Conservation and Development
      - November 12<sup>th</sup> is the next meeting regarding the cisterns
    2. Vibrant Communities Initiative (VCI) Grant: Mr. Rich reported that there have been no meetings.
    3. PZC Fire Protection Regulations: The group briefly reviewed the October 8<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing. The Public Hearing is continued until November 12<sup>th</sup> only for questions.

Mr. Anderson shared with the commission a resolution signed by the Bolton Republican Town Committee requesting the cistern regulation be repealed. He is reaching out to other organizations to do the same.

Ms. Teller provided a copy of the letter that EDC sent to Planning & Zoning regarding the cistern regulations.

4. Budget: The group reviewed the current budget. The fiscal year started off with \$2,000, and currently has a balance of \$1,850.

5. Outreach: The group briefly discussed the possibility of a Timber Harvest Plan for town owned properties. It is a potential way for the town to bring in funds. Mr. Anderson reported that he had been in touch with Ms. Marrion regarding the matter.

B. Bolton Business Yellow Pages: Mr. Anderson reported that he has continued to work on the Bolton Business Yellow Pages. Out of all of the businesses, he is missing 42 emails. He provided a list to the other commission members to make calls and obtain the missing email addresses.

C. Update EDC Website/Mission: Mr. Rich did not have any updates.

D. Branding Project: Ms. Teller reported that she has been forwarding the weekly newsletter to other commission members. One of the main tips is keeping the website up to date. Ms. Teller reminded the group about a webinar in December. The group will discuss it further at the December meeting.

E. TCCC Event at Star Hill: Ms. Teller reported that she brought materials about Bolton to the Tolland Chamber of Commerce for the event. Ms. Teller reported that she followed up with TCCC about the surrounding towns that do have EDC's and provided a list of them.

V. New Business

A. Membership Renewal-TCCC: The group received an invoice to renew the annual membership to the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce. The group discussed the pros and cons to renewing the membership. Mr. Hathaway expressed interest in attending the meetings with the other town EDC's.

A motion was made by Ms. Teller, seconded by Mr. Hathaway to renew the membership for the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce. Motion unanimously passed.

B. Drive Thru Regulations: Discussed under Public Comment/Introduction of Guests

Mr. Anderson asked if EDC could submit an application for a zoning regulation change free of charge. Mr. Kerr will look into this. The group discussed that depending on the regulation determines if they should submit it, as long as there is no cost to the commission.

VI. Announcements

A. Next EDC Regular Meeting is on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 9 of the Notch Road Municipal Center.

VII. Adjournment: A motion was made by Mr. Rich, seconded by Mr. Hathaway to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Bolduk  
Board Clerk

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