

Town of Tiverton



Economic Development Commission

343 Highland Road, Tiverton Rhode Island 02878

MEETING MINUTES

ORGANIZATION: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

DATE AND TIME: November 14, 2013 @ 6:00PM

LOCATION: TIVERTON COMMUNITY CENTER
346 JUDSON STREET
TIVERTON, RI 02878

Chairman Scott Humphrey called the regular meeting of the Tiverton Economic Development Commission to order at 6:00 P.M. Other members present were: Susan Gill, Thomas Humphrey and Leonard Schmidt. Member Jonathan Cottrell was absent. Jay Massa was present on behalf of the Newport County Chamber of Commerce.

Item # 1 Approval of minutes meeting of October 10

Ms. Gill made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Gill, Mr. S. Humphrey, Mr. T. Humphrey and Mr. Schmidt voted in favor of the motion.

Item # 2 Review EDC website analytics

The website hit and time spent statistics were reviewed.

Item #3 Town meetings update:

Harbor Commission & Recreation Commission / Susan Gill: Ms. Gill stated that she had attended a meeting on November 4. Issues regarding the Seapowet marsh area were discussed, with assistance coming from the USDA to address farm runoff concerns. She noted that the pump out boat would not be donated to the Town as had been previously anticipated. Ms. Gill stated that the Commission also discussed mooring fees and their budget request.

Ms. Gill stated that she had not attended any Recreation Commission meetings.

Planning Board & Town Council / Len Schmidt: Mr. Schmidt stated that he had not attended any meetings. Ms. Michaud stated that the three (3) major topics of discussion had been the form-based code project for north Main Road and Bliss Four Corners, the Tiverton Crossings concept plan and quarry licensing. She gave a brief update on each topic.

Mr. Humphrey stated that he had attended the Town Council meeting. He noted that he and Mr. Cottrell had been appointed to the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee. He also noted that the Stone Bridge abutment repair project had been granted permission to proceed with the design and permitting process.

Wastewater Management / Jon Cottrell: Mr. Cottrell was not present.

Zoning Board / Thomas Humphrey: Mr. T. Humphrey stated that the Zoning Board would be convening as the Planning Board of Appeals in January and February to hear an appeal of the Planning Board's denial of the Site Ready application.

Four Corners Merchant Group / Scott Humphrey & Susan Gill: The Four Corners events were discussed, including the pumpkin walk, "re-tree" event and artisan's fair in December.

Historic Preservation Advisory Board / Susan Gill: (added for discussion purposes) Ms. Gill stated that the Board had submitted a proposal to the Town Council regarding Historic District Zoning. The item was continued to the next Town Council meeting.

Item #4 RWU Community Partnership / Update: Susan Gill

Ms. Gill stated that the EDC should hear back regarding its application by the end of November.

Item #5 The EDC's goal / message

Mr. S. Humphrey stated that he would like to move this discussion to a workshop. A workshop date and time would be determined. Ms. Michaud suggested that goals should stretch out to the 20-year horizon if possible.

Item #6 Tiverton's Comprehensive Plan Review / Scott Humphrey

There was no discussion, and it was already noted that Mr. S. Humphrey and Mr. Cottrell had been appointed to the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee.

Item #7 2014 / 2015 Budget

The budget worksheet, including last year's appropriation and spending to date, was reviewed. Discussion ensued regarding the EDC's phone line. Mr. Schmidt made a motion to cancel the phone line. Ms. Gill seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, the motion and second were withdrawn. It was determined instead to forward the phone to the Planning office.

Mr. Schmidt suggested projecting expenditures through the end of the current fiscal year. Mr. S. Humphrey projected that the entire budget would be expended. Mr. S. Humphrey made a motion to approve the budget for submission to the Town Administrator and Budget Committee. Mr. Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Gill, Mr. S. Humphrey, Mr. T. Humphrey and Mr. Schmidt voted in favor of the motion. Mr. S. Humphrey stated that the request would be submitted to the Town Administrator's office tomorrow morning.

Item #8 Tiverton Library fund raising efforts / Stu Horwitz / Eileen Browning

Mr. Horwitz, Ms. Browning and Kerry Kennedy were present to discuss fundraising efforts for the new public library, which is currently under construction. They distributed brochures for a project involving the sale of engraved bricks to be placed on the library patio. They stated that they were looking for marketing ideas, particularly for marketing to commercial entities. Discussion ensued about various business groups in the area that could be points of contact, such as the Four Corners Merchants Group and the Newport County Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Horwitz, Ms. Browning and Ms. Kennedy thanked the EDC for their time.

Item #9 New Business and Economic Development Items and Updates of Interest

- Ms. Gill gave an update on the Business Forum that was being planned in conjunction with the Town Council. She stated that it would be held on Tuesday, February 11 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the Meeting House at Four Corners. She noted that featured speakers would include Marcel Valois of the RI EDC, Jody Sullivan of the Newport County Chamber of Commerce and Scott Humphrey. The event will be promoted through postcards, email, face to face and website promotion.
- Redevelopment of the former Brook's Pharmacy property was briefly discussed. The building is currently under construction for a new retail tenant.
- Mr. S. Humphrey noted that Town Administrator James Goncalo was retiring, and that his last day would be November 15.
- Mr. S. Humphrey noted that Pirate Cove was renting the former Quality Yachts space on Riverside Drive. A brief discussion ensued.
- A brief discussion ensued regarding the Industrial Park and the need to bring economic development statistics up to date.

Item #9 Next Meeting Schedule, Agenda and Adjournment

The next meeting would be held on December 12, 2013. Mr. S. Humphrey made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Gill, Mr. S. Humphrey, Mr. T. Humphrey and Mr. Schmidt voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Submitted by: Kate Michaud Approval Date: December 12, 2013