

Town of Tiverton



Economic Development Commission

343 Highland Road, Tiverton Rhode Island 02878

MEETING MINUTES

ORGANIZATION: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

DATE AND TIME: July 10, 2014 @ 6:00PM

LOCATION: TIVERTON TOWN HALL
343 HIGHLAND ROAD
TIVERTON, RI 02878

The meeting was called to order by Scott Humphrey at 6:00PM.

Members present in addition to S. Humphrey were John Cottrell, Leonard Schmidt and Susan Gill. Newly appointed member Melissa Hutchinson was absent. Guests were Barbara Pelletier, Sally Black and Jay Massa.

Item #1: Minutes

Mr. Cottrell made a motion to approve the June minutes. Ms. Gill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Humphrey, Mr. Cottrell, Mr. Schmidt and Ms. Gill voted in favor of the motion.

Item #2: Town Meeting updates

Harbor Commission- Ms. Gill stated that Arnold Robinson of the Roger Williams Community Partnership Center had been present to discuss the Stone Bridge Gas Station visioning project. He had invited Harbor Commission members to the July 18 and July 19 charrette sessions. Also discussed was the trash problem at the Sakonnet Bridge boat ramp. The Commission is working on finalizing an aquaculture policy, and has a workshop scheduled for July 24 to discuss mooring fees and policies. Mr. Cottrell noted that aquaculture should be discussed in the Comprehensive Community Plan.

Town Council- Mr. Schmidt stated that he had attended the June 23 Town Council meeting. He stated that issues included maintenance and vandalism at Town facilities and appointments and reappointments to Boards and Commissions.

Recreation Commission- Ms. Gill stated that the new beach fees had been adopted by the Town Council, which would only apply to non-residents. The hours of the beach had also been posted. Beach attendance was briefly discussed.

Planning Board- There was no update at this time. A Tiverton Crossings Master Plan application was expected by the end of the month.

Waste Water- Mr. Cottrell stated that the Governor had signed the legislation to form the Wastewater District. The new district was working towards obtaining more grant money.

Zoning- TBD - A new delegate to this group was needed.

Four Corners Merchant Group- Mr. Humphrey stated that new advertising had been discussed

Item #3: Welcome EDC Member Melissa R. Hutchinson

Ms. Hutchinson was not available to attend the meeting.

Item #4: Review drafted 2014 program of work

A draft program of work was reviewed, including revisions by Ms. Gill. After a brief discussion, Mr. Humphrey suggested continuing work on the document at a workshop scheduled for July 15 at 4:00 PM.

Item #5: EDC applicants

Mr. Schmidt noted that he would be resigning as of July 31, 2014. Mr. Humphrey thanked Mr. Schmidt for all of his hard work, noting that Mr. Schmidt was the catalyst for the current EDC group and had shaped the vision for them.

Item #6: Discuss proposed sub-committee (tourism)

Barbara Pelletier, Tiverton's delegate to Discover Newport, was present to discuss this item. She noted that she had approached Town Administrator Matt Wojcik last week about this issue because of a small tourism grant received recently from a local business. Discussion ensued as to whether or not tourism was a function of the EDC, and if it was addressed in the Town Charter. Mr. Schmidt suggested that a committee or commission could be established by the Town Council. By consensus, the EDC members agreed that tourism should be addressed by a body working separately from the EDC, but that the two groups should be working in parallel.

Item #7: Tiverton Business Collaborative – update

President Kristin Silveira was not present. Mr. Humphrey stated that the current challenge was to proactively get businesses involved and informed. Mr. Massa noted the importance of having an outlet for the business community in Town to network and socialize.

Item #8: Next meeting and adjournment

Miscellaneous items were discussed briefly including:

- Potentially merging the EDC website into the Town's website.
- Utilization of Facebook and social media.

- Mr. Humphrey reported that a tour of the Industrial Park had been given to the Governor, who had agreed to offer the talent at the Quonset Development Corporation (QDC) to help move the Tiverton Park forward.

A motion was made by Mr. Humphrey to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Gill. Mr. Humphrey, Mr. Cottrell, Mr. Schmidt and Ms. Gill voted in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:35PM

Submitted by: Kate Michaud Approval Date: September 11, 2014