



Economic Development Commission  
343 Highland Road, Tiverton RI 02878

## MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 8, 2015

Location: Tiverton Town Hall  
343 Highland Road  
Tiverton, RI 02878

Meeting was called to order at 6:04pm by Chairperson, Scott Humphrey.

Members present included: Scott Humphrey (SH), Jon Cottrell (JC), Susan Gill (SG), Renee deJesus Jones (RdJ) and Melissa Hutchinson (MH).

**Item #1:** December Meeting Minutes Approval. Motion made by JC, seconded by SG, unanimous approval.

**Item #2:** Town Meetings Update

a. Harbor Commission (JC) – A full time Harbor Master, Tyler Loomis, has been nominated and approved. The Stone Bridge abutment is eroding quickly and becoming a concern. Need to know who the point person of contact should be. Water classification testing is being performed to determine if any moorings will be lost South of the Stone Bridge abutment. Cow manure pollution into the water at Sapowet is also a concern and there are new standards that have been set by a new Federal Mandate.

b. Planning Board (SG) – At the last Tiverton Glen (Crossing) hearing the fiscal impact study was discussed. The Cecil Group will be making a recommendation to the Planning Board. There is a fairly new Homestead Fee that will be outlined in the Zoning Ordinance that allows developers to waive the affordable housing requirement for a percentage of the total units, in lieu of a fee to the Town that would be put toward locating new affordable housing or renovating existing affordable housing elsewhere in the Town.

c. Recreation Committee (SG) – The Penguin Plunge and Holiday Tree Lighting as Four Corners was successful. Summer programs are currently being scheduled and the soccer field complex is coming together.

d. Town Council (SG was not able to attend) – Louise Durfee was appointed to the Budget Committee. There is a joint Planning Board, EDC, Town Council brainstorming meeting that is scheduled for February 17<sup>th</sup> in hopes of some cooperative planning.

e. Waste Water (JC) – Bay Street neighborhood sewer installation has been moved to Phase II, as questions about remediation are yet to be resolved. There is a meeting at the end of January with neighbors who have been notified that they are in Phase I (Riverside Dr. and Main Road areas).

f. Zoning Board (MH) – 1595 Bulgarmarsh Road was granted a Special Use Permit to operate a kennel to breed lab retrievers. 35 Main Rd was postponed the February hearing as the advertisement was posted with the incorrect number of units.

g. Four Corners Merchant Group (SG) – Nothing new to report.

**Item #3:** 2015 Budget. SH reported that the \$8,300 budget proposal was submitted. Matt W. has requested a memo to clarify details and purpose of specific budget items.

**Item #4:** Newport County Chamber of Commerce, Government Affairs . SH reported that there will be an invite only meeting at Family Ties for roughly 15 to discuss a legislative committee exchange of ideas to achieve shared goals. There is a specific interest in keeping forward progress of theTiverton Business Park.

**Item #5:** EDC address to the Town Council, to take place on Jan-28<sup>th</sup>. SH to make a State of the EDC annual report describing the current Program of Work and Budget, while giving a brief summary of last year. SH to send a copy of the report to the EDC board members in advance for comments.

**Item #6:** Letter of Support Draft for approval. As chairperson, SH has drafted a Letter of Support for commercial development at the Souza Rd. site. SG remained silent on this item as she must recuse herself due to a conflict of interest (as she is also a member of the Planning Board). RdJ asked for clarification of who requested/prompted the writing of this letter. SH responded that the letter would be addressed to both the Planning Board and Matt W. (Town Administrator). RdJ brought up several concerns including: the fact that the parcel is currently zoned as a residential parcel, that the letter did not include the entire EDC mission statement, that the referenced \$2m tax base increase is still an general estimate, that the Town Council did not specifically request that the EDC take an advisory position and that she felt the letter was somewhat premature. There was discussion between SH, RdJ, MH and other town residents present at the meeting. Unfortunately, JC has to leave the meeting early and was not present for the discussion. After all agreed to amend the letter to include the entire EDC mission statement, SH made a motion to submit the letter to the PB and Matt W. SH and MH voted for, SG abstained, RdJ voted against. Motion passed 2-1 in favor. SH will check Robert's rules to verify that an abstention does not count as a nay vote.

**Item #7:** Next Meeting to be help on Feb-12<sup>th</sup>.

Motion was made to adjourn at 7:12pm. All in favor. January meeting minutes drafted by MH and sent to all members for approval at Feb-12 meeting.

Submitted By: Melissa Hutchinson

Date Approved: February 12, 2015