

# NORTH SMITHFIELD INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2008

PRESENT: Michael R. Dowling; Kenneth L. Peloquin; Alfred S. Puccetti; Bernice F. Salzberg; Eugene Simone

ALSO: Robert B. Lowe, Town Administrator; Scott A. Gibbs and Michelle M. Godin of New England Economic Development Services, Inc.

ABSENT: None

## Call to Order

Peloquin called the meeting to order at 5:51 PM.

## Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## Administrative Activities

Simone made a motion to elect Kenneth L. Peloquin as chairman; Puccetti seconded the motion, and the vote in favor was unanimous.

Puccetti made a motion to elect Eugene Simone as vice chairman; Salzberg seconded the motion, and the vote in favor was unanimous.

Puccetti made a motion to elect Bernice F. Salzberg as secretary; Simone seconded the motion, and the vote in favor was unanimous.

At Peloquin's request, Godin provided an account of the balance in the Small Business Revolving Loan Fund. According to Godin, the current balance is \$56,442.26. However, Godin said the Commission's \$10,000 funding commitment to the Branch Village Revitalization Task Force has yet to be disbursed. Godin noted that the balance information was provided to her by Town Planner Michael Phillips, who could not be in attendance due to illness.

Salzberg asked if there are any outstanding loans. Gibbs said no. Puccetti asked if the Town is a lender of last resort. Gibbs explained that the SBRLF represents fixed-asset financing; however a conventional lender should also be involved. Lowe asked if businesses in the Branch Village District could seek a loan. Peloquin answered that any business in the Town of North Smithfield is welcome to apply as long as they complete an application and can meet the criteria for a loan.

## Old Business

**Web Site Design** – It was decided that the Commission's web site in-progress would be viewed on the Internet at the conclusion of the meeting.

**Planned Corporate Zone** – It was reported that the draft Planned Corporate Zone is in the queuing pattern to be heard by the Town's new Ordinance Review Committee. Puccetti noted that his experience on the Ordinance Review Committee has been confusing. Lowe noted that Phillips is doing his best to juggle the diverse interests of the Committee.

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Peloquin took a moment to thank Gibbs for his input before the Town Council concerning the establishment of a fiscal impact fee for new developments in Town. Gibbs explained that he was asked by Councilman Paul Leclerc to present the facts about fiscal impact fees. Gibbs said he did not present his opinion in favor or against, but responded to questions asked of him. Lowe stated that the Town Council voted in favor of the establishment of a fiscal impact fee that only pertains to new residential developments; not commercial developments.

Gibbs briefly explained a concept referred to as the “new urbanism” and how it affects communities.

**Update: Branch Village District** – Peloquin reported that the Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce’s North Smithfield Advisory Group met at Banneker Industries to hear a presentation by John Flaherty about the Branch Village District. Peloquin indicated how impressed he was with Banneker’s operations, which occupy 200,000 square feet of space. Lastly, Peloquin noted that the Branch Village Revitalization Task Force was awarded a \$30,000 grant for a traffic study.

**Update: Commercial Developments** – Lowe stated that CVS at Dowling Village is under construction, and the issue of signage at the development has yet to be resolved. With regard to Stop & Shop, Lowe indicated that construction is expected to commence in the spring of this year. Lastly, Lowe said the Town has been expecting plans for a building at what is known as the Cornforth property.

## New Business

**Discussion: Kimberly Enterprises, Inc.** – Peloquin stated that he was approached by Phil Godfrin who was seeking support of a zone change for real estate that he owns. Since Godfrin was not present, there was no discussion.

**Discussion: Town Bridges** – Peloquin asked Lowe to speak about the status of bridge construction in the Town. According to Lowe, the bridge over Route 146 north bound is expected to be closed until October 2009. Gibbs mentioned that tractor trailers have been using Maple Avenue as a detour.

Peloquin noted that the next meeting is scheduled for February 11<sup>th</sup>.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth L. Peloquin  
Chairman