



Town of Warren, Rhode Island

Minutes of the Economic Development Board

The Town of Warren, RI Economic Development Board met at a Regular Meeting on **April 15, 2010** at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall, located at 514 Main Street. Board Members present included Sara Volino, Paula Silva, Davison Bolster, Karen Dionne, Brandt Heckert, and Linda Brunini. Ex Officio member Caroline Wells was present. Board Member Diane Horton was absent. Kristin MacDonald was present at the meeting to serve as Secretary to the EDB. Mr. Sam Shamoan and Mr. Andrew Teitz were present to discuss the the Warren Comprehensive Plan.

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.

1. Review and Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting on March 15, 2010

The minutes from the regular meeting held on March 15, 2010 were reviewed by the members via email. A motion was made to accept the minutes, the motion was seconded, and all members were in favor.

2. Update on Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Sam Shamoan and Mr. Andrew Teitz were present to answer the Board's questions regarding the draft of the Economic Development section of the Warren Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Bolster spoke for the Board and said that the Board is concerned that this section is a rehash of the old comprehensive plan and does not accurately update current information. Ms. Wells remarked that they need to review and interpret new data to accurately represent how Warren is developing as a community. Mr. Heckert stated that the Comprehensive Plan needs to both emphasize the downtown and the historic district as economic assets to the town.

In response to these concerns, Mr. Shamoan stated that he and Mr. Teitz had incorporated the comments of the Board into the draft, but that their progress was defined by the committee working with them on the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Shamoan said they would be willing to meet with the EDB to work on revising the draft. Ms. Brunini asked Mr. Shamoan to send the Board a clean copy of the draft as well as mark-up version of the draft. The Board set a tentative meeting date to meet with Mr. Shamoan and Mr. Teitz on Monday, May 10th to review the economic development portion of the Comprehensive

Plan. Mr. Shamoon and Mr. Teitz also said they were available to attend the May 24th regular meeting of the EDB.

3. Update on Downtown banner project

Ms. Silva led the update on the banner project with samples and prices on banners. She received a quote for four 30"x60" banners at \$150.00 apiece from Silktone Graphics. Ms. Brunini also presented quotes on 24"x48" banners at \$113.92 from Fast Signs. Ms. Brunini also had samples of the product on hand. The Board discussed the merits of different styles and printing methods of banners, as well as the placement of the banners in town and the condition of the utility poles along Main Street. Mr. Heckert suggested that in order to move forward on the project the Board should decide on the size and number of the banners first, and then decide where to place them. Ms. Wells stated that she would inquire about available funding for the banners above the remaining 2009 EDB budget of \$500.00. The Board agreed to make a final decision on the banners at the May EDB meeting

4. Discussion and Review of 2010 EDB Work Plan

The Board discussed the 2010 EDB Work Plan in relation to an agenda item at the April meeting of Town Council that questioned the progress and overall effectiveness of the EDB. Mr. Heckert commented that as an advisory board the EDB is only as effective as zoning ordinances and the EDB budget allow. Ms. Volino stated that she would like to know the budget of the Bristol EDB for comparison. Mr. Bolster made a motion that the EDB present a mid-year report to Town Council in June, the motion was seconded, and all members were in favor.

5. Update on Downtown Parking and Signage

Due to the time, the Board decided to postpone this discussion to the next meeting.

6. Discussion on developing charrette for Narragansett Electric Company

Mr. Bolster led a brief discussion about the Narragansett Electric Company property, a two acre site that borders the Warren River on the Warren/Barrington line. Mr. Bolster suggested that the EDB could sponsor an informational charette to showcase the property's potential as a gateway into Warren. The Board discussed the potential of the site and the possibility of enlisting Roger Williams University architecture students to work on the project. Ms. Brunini suggested that the site could possibly incorporate the marketing of products made in Rhode Island. The Board agreed to support sponsoring a charrette for the fall of 2010.

7. Discussion of the promotion of arts related events and potential grants

The Board agreed to postpone this item until a later date.

8. Update and Discussion on Town Council Action on Economic Development Board (Tattrie)

The Board discussed the Town Council agenda item regarding the progress of the EDB; Ms. Tattrie was not present.

Given the time, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin M. MacDonald

*Minutes submitted by Kristin MacDonald
May 20, 2010*