



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 September 17, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall, located at 514 Main Street. The presiding officer was Brandt Heckert. Board members present were Sara Volino, Mark Lombari, Karen Dionne, Christine Lichatz, and Spencer Morris. Board members Patrick DeSocio, Kate Dickson, and Darcy DaCosta were absent. Town Council member Davison Bolster was in attendance. Ex officio member Caroline Wells was absent. Kristin MacDonald was present at the meeting to serve as Secretary to the EDB.

1. Review and Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting of August 20, 2012

The minutes from the regular meeting held on August 20, 2012 were reviewed by the members via email. Ms. Volino made a motion to accept the minutes, the motion was seconded by Ms. Lichatz and all members were in favor.

2. Report on the September 4th presentation to Council by the Gateway Signage Workgroup (Dionne/Lombari/Volino)

Mr. Lombari reported to the Board that Town Council approved the placement of the gateway sign on the Warren/Barrington line. Town Council will approve the placement for the three additional gateway signs at the October meeting. The town may have to coordinate with the RIDOT for the installation of these signs. The goal is to have the gateway sign on the Warren/ Barrington line in place for the Warren Walkabout on October 21st. The Board discussed future signage needs throughout town. The workgroup decided to continue to work together to prioritize signage needs in town and to continue with a verbal update at the October meeting.

3. Discover Warren Update to include the Shipshape Challenge and Warren Walkabout

Ms. Dickson was not present to give a report on these items. Mr. Heckert stated he will contact Ms. Dickson directly and report to the Board directly on the status of the Shipshape Challenge. Mr. Morris said he would contact Dave Wescott regarding repairing the kiosk on Railroad Avenue and possibly organizing volunteers to work on the area before the walkabout.

4. Discussion of possible topics for the joint EDB/Council workshop on September 25, 2012

Mr. Heckert stated that he will not be able to attend the meeting on Tuesday, September 25th. The Board discussed specific topics to discuss in order to keep the meeting focused and productive. The Board agreed to present the following topics for discussion with Town Council:

1. *The Economic Development section of the Comprehensive Plan* – Ms. Volino will introduce the urgency of moving forward with submitting the completed economic development portion of the Comprehensive Plan to the Planning Board. Mr. Heckert will email Caroline Wells that this topic will be introduced at the meeting.
2. *Tax Incentives* – Mr. Morris will introduce the topic regarding researching the effectiveness of the town's current tax incentives.
3. *Zoning and Signage Issues* – Ms. Dionne agreed to introduce the topic of changes to the zoning ordinance regarding signage, as well as other appearance and aesthetic issues in town.
4. *Town Hall Point Person* – The Board will discuss the need for an informed point person at Town Hall

5. Move the date of the October 15th EDB meeting to avoid conflict with the special Financial Town Meeting

Mr. Morris made a motion to postpone the October meeting of the EDB to Monday, October 22nd, 2012, the motion was seconded by Ms. Volino and all members were in favor.

6. Discussion and action regarding the Special Financial Town Meeting for the sale of Main Street School (Hope & Main)

A quorum of 125 voters is required at the Special Financial Meeting on Monday, October 15th in order to vote for the sale of the Main Street School to Hope and Main. Mr. Heckert suggested that the board members contact friends and acquaintances by phone and email the weekend before the meeting; also, it is crucial that people know that they need to be a town hall at 7:00 pm to take part in the vote.

A motion was made to adjourn by Ms. Lichatz, the motion was seconded by Mr. Morris and all members were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

The next meeting of the EDB is scheduled for Monday, October 22, 2012.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin M. MacDonald

October 19, 2012

