



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 February 18, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall, located at 514 Main Street. The presiding officer was Karen Dionne. Board members present were Sara Volino, Mark Lombari, Spencer Morris, Moe Clare and Benjamin Terry. Board member Christine Lichatz was absent. 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 February 19, 2013

The minutes from the regular meeting held on February 19, 2013 were reviewed by the board via email. A motion was made by Ms. Volino to accept the minutes from the regular meeting of February 18th, the motion was seconded by Mr. Lombari and all members were in favor.

2. Appointment of EDB Chair and Co-Chair for 2013

A motion was made by Ms. Volino to nominate Ms. Dionne for the position of EDB chair, the motion was seconded and all members were in favor. A motion was made to nominate Mr. Clare by Ms. Dionne for the position of EDB co-chair, the motion was seconded and all members were in favor. Each position has a one year term limit.

Ms. Dionne reported that Ms. Dickson has sent her official resignation letter to Mr. Gordon. Mr. DeSocio has not submitted an official resignation letter at this point, however he has missed a majority of the meetings over the last year.

3. Update on EDB 2013-2014 budget

The requested budget for the EDB for the upcoming 2013-2014 year is \$5,000.00 for the EDB budget and \$8,500.00 for the position of a part-time EDB administrative assistant. These amounts are subject to approval at the upcoming financial town meeting.

4. Discussion regarding the public workshop on the development of Water Street

A public workshop is scheduled for Thursday, February 20th at the Wharf Tavern on Water Street at 7 p.m. The Board discussed several key aspects pertinent to the development project including:

- Trees, sidewalks and landscaping

- Traffic and speeding
- Defined Crosswalks
- Delineated Parking Spaces
- Chain link fencing
- Bike racks
- Rubbish containers

Accessibility to local businesses, according to Ms. Volino, will be extremely important during the development/construction process. The Board briefly discussed the future development of the Tourister Mill Complex and agreed that coordinating the development of the mill complex with any improvements to Water Street will be beneficial to both projects. These items will be introduced at the public meeting with Caroline Wells on Thursday evening.

5. Discussion of follow-through with CDBG applicants

According to Caroline Wells, the funds for the applicants to store front improvement project are still unavailable and need to be released through the Town Solicitor's office. Ms. Dionne and Mr. Terry plan on meeting with Ms. Wells and will have more information on the progress of the CDBG grant to fund this project.

6. Update on status of economic development section of the Comprehensive Plan

Ms. Dionne reported that according to Caroline Wells meetings to continue work on the Comprehensive Plan will begin in March. Although the economic development section of the plan is completed and approved, Ms. Wells requested volunteer participation to review the drafts of the other sections. Both Mr. Terry and Mr. Morris said they would be interested in working this project.

7. Update on current status and discussion of 2013 efforts for ShipShape Challenge

The future of the ShipShape Challenge is dependent on finding a volunteer to take charge of the event. Although the Board felt that the project was too much for the EDB to take responsibility for, the members will look for a volunteer that could organize the event.

8. Review of 2013-2014 EDB work plan, based on current EDB work plan

The Board agreed to hold a special meeting to review and update the current work plan; the meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 4, 2013. Ms. Dionne will forward a copy of the current work plan for the board members to review.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin M. MacDonald

March 21, 2013

