



Town of Warren, Rhode Island

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## Minutes of the Economic Development Board

The Town of Warren, RI Economic Development Board met at a Regular Meeting on March 18, 2013 at 6:20 p.m. at Town Hall, located at 514 Main Street.\* The presiding officer was Karen Dionne. Board members present were Sara Volino, Christine Lichatz Moe Clare and Benjamin Terry. Board members Mark Lombari, Spencer Morris, Ben Terry and Patrick DeSocio were absent. Ex officio member Caroline Wells was absent. Kristin MacDonald was present at the meeting to serve as Secretary to the EDB.

*\*the meeting was relocated to the George Hail Library because of scheduling conflicts with the Senior Center and the unavailability of the Youth Center due to renovations*

### **1. Review and Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting of February 19, 2013 and Special Meeting of March 4, 2013**

The minutes from the regular meeting held on February 19, 2013 were reviewed by the board via email. A motion was made by Mr. Clare to accept the minutes from the regular meeting of February 19<sup>th</sup>, the motion was seconded by Ms. Volino, and all members were in favor. A motion was made by Ms. Dionne to accept the minutes from the special meeting held on March 4<sup>th</sup>, the motion was seconded by Ms. Lichatz, and all members were in favor.

### **2. Review and Approval of updated 2013-2014 Work Plan**

Ms. Dionne said that there is still controversy regarding Mr. DeSocio's standing as a member of the EDB because he has not officially resigned from the board; she anticipates that his resignation will be considered at the Town Council meeting in April. Consequently, the EDB will probably not gain any new members until June.

The Board reviewed the final draft of the 2013-2014 Work Plan and discussed items as necessary. In reviewing Objective 1/Business District Improvement, Ms. Dionne said that she will send an email to the Town Solicitor, Tony DeSisto, with a copy to the Town Manager, Tom Gordon, regarding the progress of the new sign ordinances. The Board discussed the Water Street improvement project and agreed to invite the developers of the American Tourister project to a future EDB meeting. Mr. Clare and Ms. Lichatz agreed to talk to the owners of the Coffee Depot and Federal Hill Pizza regarding the dumpsters on Jefferson Way. Mr. Clare also said he would speak with the owner of the 1776 Plaza regarding the out of order phone booth and inappropriate and outdated signage in that area. Ms. Lichatz said she would come up with a plan for improvements to the

landscaping for the Town Hall and the Library. Regarding the speaker program, Mr. Clare said he would contact the director of RIDEDEC in Providence.

The Board made some minor changes to the Work Plan draft and a motion was made by Ms. Volino to accept the 2013-2014 Work Plan, the motion was seconded by Ms. Lichatz and all members were in favor.

Ms. Dionne reported that the Town Planner, Caroline Wells, will attend the April meeting of the EDB.

### **3. Report from Signage work group**

Due to the absence of Mr. Lombardi, the Board did not discuss this item except to note that permission has been granted by the state to install the remaining gateway signs and they will be installed in the spring.

### **4. Discussion regarding Economic Development position**

Ms. Dionne reported that she briefly discussed the Economic Development position with the Town Planner, Caroline Wells; she said the new economic development position would operate as a branch of the Town Planner's office. Ms. Wells will further update the Board on the future of the Economic Development position when she attends the April meeting of the EDB. Ms. Dionne also said that the EDB would like to be able to have Ms. Wells attend the meetings possibly every third meeting.

### **5. Discussion regarding annual EDB report to Town Council**

Ms. Dionne and Ms. MacDonald will meet sometime in the next month to review the minutes from the past year and compile the annual EDB report to submit to Town Council.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin M. MacDonald

April 12, 2013



