

Town of Warren, RI

Minutes of the Economic Development Board

The Town of Warren, RI Economic Development Board met at a Regular Meeting on July 15, 2013 at 6:00 P.M. At George Hail Library, located at 520 Main Street, and shortly thereafter moved to the Coffee Depot, located at 501 Main Street. The presiding officer was Karen Dionne. Board members present were Kathleen Tucciarone, Moe Clare, Spencer Morris, Christine Lichatz, Mark Lombari, and Benjamin Terry. Board member Sara Volino was absent. Also in attendance was Katie Dickson from Discover Warren.

1. Review and Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting held June 17, 2013

The minutes from the regular meeting held on June 17, 2013 were reviewed by the board via email. A motion was made by Mr. Clare to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of the 15th; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lombari, and all members were in favor.

2. Status Report on Child Street Rezoning

Councilwoman Tattrie and Town Planner Wells contacted Board Members Lombari and Dionne, respectively, for comment on a request to rezone an area of Child Street. Mr. Lombari and Mr. Morris will follow up on this issue.

3. Status Report on Business Development Grant Funding

Ms. Dionne reported the amount of the grant to be \$2100, not the \$2500 previously reported. Ms. Lichatz reported on the landscaping plan for the front of Town Hall. She presented several sketches of the landscaping plan, the final versions of which will be presented to Town Manager Gordon and Ms. Wells. Mr. Clare indicated that the owner of the adjacent property, the former India Restaurant, would be amenable to coordinating landscaping efforts.

In regard to advertising, \$200 will go towards advertising future events, such as the Warren Walkabout or other happenings. Mr. Lombari and Ms. Dionne will meet further on this. Furthermore, it was voted unanimously that \$500 will go to Discover Warren to pay for last years Shipshape Challenge competition.

4. Status Report on Storefront Improvement Grants

Ms. Dionne has been working with the Super Mart on Main Street in the application process. She suggested to the Board that each member take on a local business to help with promotion and application. Members agreed to undertake this task. Furthermore, it was agreed to promote this program at the next Discover Warren meeting. Ms. Dionne and Mr. Terry will go to this meeting.

5. Town Hall Liaison to EDB

Going forward, Building Inspector Nash will serve as the Town's liaison to the Economic Development Board.

Website design and maintenance was discussed as a key priority to Economic Development. This should be noted to the Town, whether it be through Mr. Nash or Ms. Wells, as a key function of the new Economic Development Coordinator.

6. Tree Ordinance Status Update

No new updates. Kathy will continue to follow up with the Tree Commission.

7. Discussion of Marketing

Mr. Lombardi suggested that first the EDB needed a mission statement in order to direct a marketing strategy. Ms. Dickson brought up the vision of an “umbrella group” consisting of parties interested in the promotion of Warren. As a first step, it was agreed that a brainstorming session would be beneficial to frame this discussion.

A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Clare, Mr. Lombardi seconded, and all members voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Benjamin Terry
August 19, 2013