



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 23, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at George Hail Library, located at 520 Main Street. The presiding officer was Karen Dionne. Board members present were Sara Volino, Christine Lichatz, Moe Clare, Mark Lombardi, Kathleen Tucciarone, and Ben Terry. Board member Spencer Morris was absent. Bill Nash, the Warren Zoning and Building Official, was present. Jonathan Stone was present as a guest. 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 19, 2013

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

2. Introduction of Bill Nash, Warren Zoning and Building Official as new EDB liaison

Ms. Dionne introduced Mr. Nash to the Board. In the future, he will serve as the liaison for the EDB. The Board will also continue to work with Caroline Wells, the Town Planner. Mr. Nash encouraged the board members keep communication open and to contact him as necessary by email. He continued to discuss some of the responsibility changes in Town Hall, such as that a new website coordinator has been hired. He noted that the goal will be to make the town website more interactive. He discussed the possibility of a college intern being hired to work on building a more efficient website. Also, he briefly outlined the responsibilities of the new economic development coordinator. This will be a ten hour per week position at \$16.25 per hour; this position would be ideal for an intern or an individual looking to build a solid resume. The Board also discussed with Mr. Nash the challenges to enforcing zoning and signage regulations in Warren.

3. Discussion of town hall economic development assistant position

This item was discussed with Mr. Nash as part of the preceding agenda item.

4. Presentation by Jonathan Stone of town branding strategies

After giving a brief introduction to his presentation at the August meeting, Mr. Stone continued with his power point presentation regarding Warren and The Main Street National Trust for Historic Preservation. Mr. Stone has met with other groups in Warren, such as Discover Warren and the Warren Preservation Society, that are “stakeholders” in a revitalized Main Street. By sharing the presentation, he is hoping to develop a group of individuals who would be willing to support Warren’s historic Main Street as part of a commercial revitalization process through the National Trust. In his estimation, the initial expense for the program would be approximately \$100,000 which would be funded by the town, grants, and donations. The Board briefly discussed what is financially realistic for Warren. Mr. Stone discussed taking his proposal to the next level with a meeting of all the potential stakeholder groups in Warren.

5. Review of Planning Board meeting on economic development section of Comprehensive Plan and recommendation to Town Planner and Planning Board

Due to the time, the board decided to discuss this item at a special meeting of the EDB to be held at the Town Hall on Monday, September 30th, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made to adjourn, the motion was seconded, and all members were in favor.
Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin M. MacDonald
October 20, 2013

