



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 Special Meeting on February 17, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at Warren Town Hall (Senior Center). The presiding officer was Karen Dionne. Board members present were Sara Volino, Kathy Tucciarone, Ben Terry and Spencer Morris. Mark Lombardi and Christine Lichatz were absent. Mo Clare, Economic Development Coordinator, was in attendance. Steven Thompson and Eileen Collins were present as guests. Joanne Demars of the USDA was in attendance as a special guest. Kristin MacDonald was present at the meeting to serve as Secretary to the EDB.

### **1. Review and Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting held January 21, 2014**

The minutes from the regular meeting held on January 21, 2014 were reviewed by the board via email. A motion was made by Ms. Volino to accept the minutes, the motion was seconded by Ms. Tuccirone, and all members were in favor.

### **2. Discussion and action on EDB recommendations for Tourister development. Letter to be submitted to Town Planner and Planning Board in advance of Planning Board Master Plan meeting on March, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 (5:30 – 6:15).**

The board discussed the recommendations for the Tourister development. The board agreed that the following issues are a priority for consideration:

- a. Connection with Water Street—side streets must be open for pedestrian and bicycle traffic, have open sight lines, and integrate with the existing community.
- b. Commercial Development – an effort should be made to attract businesses that support the community and benefit the town as a whole. Also, an effort should be made to attract unique and independently owned stores.
- c. Landscape – focus on “restorative landscape” with use of local and indigenous materials which will integrate with the Water Street rehabilitation project.
- d. Transportation – the development should be a “transportation hub” with a bus shelter, bus turnaround, and bike racks.

Mr. Morris also suggested that the board request that the developers provide the town with a financial impact statement; however, the board agreed that the four points listed above are priority considerations. A motion was made by Mr. Terry to submit a letter to the Town Planner and the Planning Board for the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, the motion was seconded by

Ms. Tucciarone, and all members were in favor. Ms. Dionne will send out a draft of the letter to the board for review before submitting the final version.

**3. Guest speaker Joanne Demars of the USDA will speak to the board and local business owners about initiatives, ideas, and opportunities for Main Street business area on anticipation of the RI Statewide Preservation Conference on April 26, 2014 (6:15 – 7:15)**

After a brief introduction and presentation by Ms. Demars, the board participated in a group discussion which focused on Warren's economic and cultural strengths and weaknesses. In anticipation of the RI Statewide Preservation Conference, the board agreed to encourage business owners to participate in a town clean-up project. The board will submit a letter to Town Council and the Town Manager about the clean-up project, in order to have the participation of the Department of Public works, and the board will also distribute a flyer to local business owners. The board agreed to have a special meeting in two weeks to focus on the town clean-up project.

A motion was made by Ms. Volino to have a special EDB meeting on Tuesday, March 4, 2014, the motion was seconded by Mr. Terry, and all members were in favor.

**4. Discussion of Roger Williams University CPC (Community Partnerships Center) and possible EDB application to program by March 3<sup>rd</sup> deadline (7:15 – 7:45).**

Ms. Tucciarone will contact the RWU CPC regarding the application for this program.

**5. Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin M. MacDonald  
March 24, 2014

