



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 May 20, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at Warren Town Hall (Senior Center). The presiding officer was Karen Dionne. Board members present were Sara Volino, Ben Terry, Mark Lombardi and Christine Lichatz. Spencer Morris and Kathleen Tucciarone were absent. Moe Clare was in attendance.

1. Review and Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting held April 21, 2014

The minutes from the regular meeting held on April 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. Lichatz, and all members were in favor.

2. Discussion of Bristol Warren Art Night with guest Tamara Kaplan

Ms. Kaplan was unable to attend the meeting. This item will be discussed at the June meeting.

3. Discussion of improvements to business district and marketing objectives

The EDB and Warren Arts Initiative had success with pop-up storefronts on Main Street for RI Preservation Conference, and received much positive feedback from business owners along Main Street, and residents and passersby. Many downtown businesses participated in the cleanup, and Moe Clare said many merchants commented that they were pleased to be visited by someone from town hall.

Plans for remaining business outreach funds are being implemented: Town Hall landscaping, new sign for Town Hall, and planters for Main Street.

4. Discussion regarding remaining agenda initiatives for 2014

Plans for business outreach and marketing efforts for the coming year were discussed. Due to lack of funding for fiscal year 2014-15, initiatives will be limited to grass-roots efforts within the local business community. Ms. Dionne suggested inviting Warren businesses. Mr. Lombardi and other board members commented that the cuts of the Town Planner and Building/zoning officer's positions to part-time, and the elimination of the Economic Development Coordinator, will severely limit business advocacy and assistance at the Town Hall, and will subsequently impact economic development.

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

The next meeting of the EDB is scheduled for Monday, May 16, 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin M. MacDonald
May 19, 2014

