

North Smithfield  
Redevelopment Agency

Monday January 23, 2012

Present: John Flaherty, John Gibbons, John Gregory, Robert Nault, Mike Rapko, Eric Nascimento, Jay Freitas, Smed Blair

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

Election of Redevelopment Agency Officers

Mr. Flaherty indicated that officers need to be re-elected for the Redevelopment Agency since this is the annual meeting. He explained that we need to elect a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary. The existing officers are as follows: Mr. Flaherty as Chairman, Mr. Gibbons as Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Nascimento as Secretary. Mr. Nault made a motion to keep all officers in the same position. Mr. Flaherty asked all current officers if they agree to serve in the same position for another year. All current officers agreed to remain in their respective position. Mr. Rapko seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Flaherty asked if anyone had anything that they would like to add or change from the minutes from the last meeting on October 24, 2011. Mr. Gibbons motioned to accept the minutes. Mr. Freitas seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Update on the Status of the Mixed-Use Zoning Ordinance

Mr. Flaherty indicated that the Draft Mixed-Use Zoning Ordinance was presented at a Town Council meeting on January 17, 2012. He answered questions regarding the ordinance from the public at that time. The subject was continued to the meeting on February 6, 2012, where it will be considered the first official public reading.

Discussion and Informal Review on Latest Developments for Branch River Industrial Park

Mr. Blair presented the latest updates to his plan for the Branch River Industrial Park. He also explained the current status of the required DEM permitting, and potential challenges going forward with the project.

Discussion of Other Private Investments in Branch Village

Mr. Flaherty informed members that he noticed improvements currently being done to a private business on St. Paul Street within the Redevelopment District. He asked members to share any knowledge they had regarding other improvements within the Redevelopment District. Members indicated that additional office space has been added to Chamberland & Company, Ltd. located on Great Road.

Discussion on the Streetscape Improvement Request for the 2013-2016 State Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Flaherty indicated that the Town requested that the Streetscape Improvement project for Great Road be added to the 2013-2016 TIP. A discussion ensued and members felt that this project will help encourage economic development within the Redevelopment District.

Discussion on Ways to Improve Economic Development in North Smithfield

Mr. Nault explained that he met with Town Administrator Paulette Hamilton on January 11, 2012 to discuss opportunities in promoting economic development in the Town. Mr. Nault suggested to Ms. Hamilton that the Town website be updated to include valuable information for developers such as available tax credits. As a result of that meeting Mr. Nault will contact the person in charge of the Town website to discuss these changes. A discussion ensued and Mr. Nault suggested other uses of technology such as social networking sites, and mass email as another way to promote economic development in the Town.

Discussion on Pursuing a Market Analysis for Branch Village to Promote Development or Redevelopment

Mr. Flaherty suggested that a market analysis be performed to help promote development within the Redevelopment District. A discussion ensued and all other members agreed that there are better ways to promote development such as disseminating valuable information regarding available tax credits for private businesses. It was also decided that it would be beneficial to have one point of contact within the Town available for any questions regarding development.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm

Respectfully submitted

Eric Nascimento