

RHODE ISLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MAKE IT EASIER TO DO BUSINESS SUBCOMMITTEE

PUBLIC SESSION

MARCH 26, 2012

The Make It Easier to Do Business Subcommittee of the Board of Directors of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation (the "Corporation") met on Monday, March 26, 2012, in Public Session, beginning at 3:00 p.m., at the offices of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation located at 315 Iron Horse Way, Providence, Rhode Island, pursuant to notice of the meeting to all subcommittee members, and public notice of the meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto, as required by the By-Laws of the Corporation and applicable Rhode Island law.

The following individuals were present and participated throughout the meeting as indicated: Mr. Karl Wadensten (Chair), Mr. Henry Kates, Mr. Ron Cagnilia, Mr. Paul McGreevy, Ms. Leslie Taito, Ms. Sherri Carrera, Mr. Michael Walker, and Ms. Nora Eshkhanian.

Invited guests were: Mr. Jason Albuquerque, Mr. Gary Tedeschi, Mr. Fred Presley, Ms. Maura Sayre, and Mr. Jeffrey Broadhead.

Mr. Wadensten called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Members of the subcommittee unanimously approved the minutes of the prior subcommittee meeting upon motion by Mr. McGreevy, seconded by Mr. Kates. Ms. Taito reported that she has traveled to many of the State's cities and towns to discuss regulatory reform. She further reported that she had recently met with Mr. Michael Embry, Town Manager of the Town of North Kingstown (the "Town"), to learn more about the Town's building and permitting processes and the technology used. Mr. Albuquerque, the information technology director for the Town, described how the Town identified the technology to implement and the needs the Town wanted to meet with the online building and permitting system. Mr. Tedeschi, the Town building official, presented the Town's building permitting website to the subcommittee. He discussed administering the site and explained how businesses access and utilize the site. It was noted that the site can be used on mobile devices, such as iPads, and can be connected to various other departments in the Town. It was additionally noted that each permit application receives a tracking number that the customer can then use to track the process of their permit online. Mr. Albuquerque explained that they are continuing to receive input from users, which is helping the system to grow. Members of the subcommittee discussed with the representatives of the Town how the system integrates State required approvals and other certificates that are obtained from outside of the Town. It was reported that the system cost approximately \$14,000 and it took roughly three years to implement.

Mr. Broadhead, Executive Director of the Washington County Regional Planning Council, reported that the organization has begun discussions with the other towns in South Country regarding the integration of similar systems throughout the region. Mr. McGreevy noted that there are currently bills in the State legislature that pertain to statewide permitting and would amend the State Building Code. Ms. Taito stated that other cities and towns are looking into and implementing different solutions and that it is useful to identify best practices or consider implementing a statewide system to serve the needs of all municipalities. She noted that they will look into scheduling a presentation from another municipality on its permitting technology at an upcoming subcommittee meeting in order to compare its procedures and layer the maps to determine the best practices currently in place.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.