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SEYMOUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Special Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2018
Flaherty Room, Town Hall

Members Present: C. Aliman, P. Lombardi, C. Bowen, M. Marcinek, B. Findley,
R. VanEgghen

Members Absent:

ITEM #1

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

ITEM #2

Pledge of Allegiance led by C. Aliman, Chairman.

ITEM #3 – Discussion with Sheilia O'Malley and John Marini.

They were not in attendance at this point in the meeting.

ITEM #4 – EDC Social Media Coordinator Introduction.

C. Bowen stated that a sub-committee was created for social media outreach. He stated that a call was put out for a high school student to act as an intern and handle this matter. Ashley Sirowich will be doing this. C. Bowen stated that she will need to find ways to get businesses more involved. He stated that if this is successful the Commission may want to consider adding a scholarship to the position. She will be reporting monthly and give a report at every meeting. C. Bowen stated that accounts will be created on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. He also suggested adding an item to next month's agenda to determine a marketing budget. Mr. Marcinek felt that it would be important to review everything before she sends it out. C. Bowen stated that it will be so that there will not be any issues. Mr. Findley asked what the process will be in choosing what businesses will be highlighted. C. Bowen stated that nothing has been established yet but there are some ideas. Mr. Van Egghen suggested getting in contact with companies in Seymour and C. Bowen stated that will be done. Mr. VanEgghen felt that it was better than what we have now and suggested reviewing how it is going the first month or three months. C. Bowen stated that there are businesses that have been in town for many years and she will also be able to post other events that are happening in town. P. Lombardi suggested that she get in contact with Rory to get information from him. He also felt it should be reviewed by a member before it goes out. C. Bowen stated she will not be responding to any comments; he will be responding to those. C. Aliman felt that any comments should be a personal opinion and not the opinion of the Commission. R. Van Egghen felt that there was a lot that could be done with this. M. Marcinek suggested setting up an agenda for a year on how businesses will be handled. P. Lombardi stated that he does

not see a problem with this but that is being published and said should be reviewed. M. Marcinek also felt that Kurt Mikler should be aware of what is going on with this. C. Aliman asked when she will begin and C. Bowen stated August 1st.

P. Lombardi stated that the Commission has two alternate members but they cannot vote on any item unless appointed as a full member for that meeting.

ITEM #3 Discussion with Sheila O'Malley and John Marini

Sheila O' Malley suggested have other EDC representatives from other towns speak with the Commission. She stated that she worked for the Fifth District Congressman and was the project and grants director for the District Office. She is now the Economic Development Director for Derby as well as grants person and chief of staff. She stated that she also works with the Ansonia Mayor and is trying to concentrate on economic development in Ansonia. She stated that the Commission needs to determine what the priority issues are and what the problem areas are and why. She stated that there is an Economic Development District comprised of 21 towns and cities that Seymour is part of. The District qualifies for federal funding and is State recognized. She stated that a town cannot compete for federal funds unless they are part of a district. She also stated that it is important to partner with developers and help make projects go smoothly. Mr. Marcinek asked how you deal with a situation without changing zoning regulations to make it more attractive for a develop.

Sheila O'Malley stated that the role of the EDC should be to identify problem properties and properties that are contaminated. She stated that economic development goes along with grants and she feels that is critical. She also felt that a lot could be done with the downtown area. P. Lombardi stated that downtown needs a lot of improvements and parking needs to be added. Sheila O'Malley also felt that it was important to have residential in the downtown area.

ITEM # Recap of Valley Realtor Day.

C. Aliman stated that the mayors and first selectmen were there from all Valley towns. She stated that next year it will probably be open to the public. She also stated that she was not able to get a banner and there were a lot of talk about Tri-Town. She also stated that mostly residential realtors were there. M. Marcinek felt that there should be a job description for the Economic Development director. C. Aliman also stated that she did not have a list of commercial properties that are available in Seymour.

A motion to adjourn was made by C. Bowen, seconded by C. Aliman and carried unanimously (6-0). The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Maryanne DeTullio, Recording Secretary