

Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting
May 8, 2012

Present: Steven Santino
Ed Shapiro
Dick Gada
John Jensen
Joan Bengtson

Also Present: Mark Christiansen
Mark Nickerson

A. Preliminary Business

1. Call to Order. Chairman Santino called the Economic Development Commission Regular Meeting of May 8, 2012 to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes. Mr. Santino asked for corrections, additions or deletions to the April 10, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Economic Development Commission.

MOTION: Mr. Jensen moved to approve the April 10, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Economic Development Commission, as presented.
Seconded by Mr. Gada. Joan Bengtson abstained from voting. (4-0-1) Motion carried.

3. Delegations. There were no delegations.

4. Public Comments. There were no public comments.

B. Reports

1. Ex-officio Report. Mr. Nickerson welcomed Joan Bengtson as a new member of this Commission.

He informed the Commission the Board of Selectmen has had discussion on the Samuel Smith House.

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on May 14. The budget will then go to Referendum.

2. Chairman's Report. Mr. Santino informed the Commission his work will require that he spend time in another state and finds it necessary to resign after tonight's meeting.

He welcomed Joan Bengtson as a new member of the Commission.

Commission member Mr. Shapiro joined the meeting.

3. Presentation of Bills. The Recording Secretary presented a bill for 3.50 hours of secretarial work for the Economic Development Commission from April 10, 2012 to May 7, 2012.

MOTION: Mr. Gada moved to pay the bill from the Recording Secretary for 3.50 hours of secretarial services from April 10, 2012 to May 7, 2012. Seconded by Mr. Shapiro. (5-0) Unanimous.

C. Old Business

1. Agri-Business Committee. Mark Christiansen reported the Agri-Business Committee is working on its October 21 Trail Ride. The Trail Ride will be increased by 5 miles. He felt a future Trail Ride should take place at Darrow's Pond. Two 4H groups want to help with the Trail Ride.

The Zoning Commission will rule on agricultural signs.

The Agri-Business Committee is working on a Small Farm Preservation Program. The Town will need to qualify on six items. The due date for the town to send the application to the state is May 31. Ms. Bengtson asked who will produce a letter from the Town? Mr. Christiansen replied the Conservation of Natural Resources. Ms. Bengtson asked have you researched how other towns have handled this? Mr. Christiansen replied they have not.

There is nothing new to report on chicken regulations.

2. Visitors Center. Mr. Gada reported the Visitors Center has a few volunteers. It plans to open on Memorial Day Weekend and weekends throughout the summer. Niantic Main Street is willing to give support to the Visitors Center. Mr. Jensen agreed to ask ELBOW to participate. Mr. Nickerson suggested using the scroll to advertise the need for volunteers for the Visitors Center. Mr. Shapiro suggested asking for volunteers from the Senior Center.

3. Next Steps for the EDC. Mr. Shapiro reported Gary Goeschel has agreed to attend the next meeting of this Commission. He will need more input from this Commission on the Plan of Conservation and Development chapter for the Economic Development Commission.

Mr. Santino asked if any commission member is willing to take over as Chair? Mr. Gada, Mr. Jensen and Mr. Shapiro agreed to alternate during the summer months. There will be no meeting in August.

MOTION: Ms. Bengtson moved to appoint as Acting Chairman Richard Gada for the June meeting and John Jensen for the July meeting. Seconded by Mr. Shapiro (5-0) Unanimous.

D. New Business

1. Open Discussion.

MOTION: Mr. Shapiro moved to accept with regrets the resignation of our Chairman Steve Santino. Seconded by Mr. Gada. (5-0) Unanimous.

Mr. Santino was presented with a gift from the Commission for his service.

E. Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Gada moved to adjourn the May 8, 2012 Regular Meeting at 8:00 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Jensen. (5-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary