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STAFFORD, CT

**Economic Development Meeting  
(EDC)**

**April 11, 2018**

2018 APR 16 P 12:43

  
TOWN CLERK

**MINUTES:**

**Members present:** *Dianne Bilyak, Jen Arpin, Selectman Tony Frassinelli, Andra Smith, Steve Squire, Marion Rios, Chair Richard Shuck. Missing from the meeting: Daniel Burnett-Pollock* (Richard Shuck had an old email address and Dan has not been getting any emails) *and Lisa Baxter.*

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Establish a quorum (Yes, 7 members.)
3. Choose an EDC recording secretary
  - Dianne Bilyak offered to be secretary
  - Tony Frassinelli made a motion to accept
  - Marion Rios seconded the motion
  - All in favor. No discussion.
4. Approve minutes from the Sept. 5, 2017 meeting.

There were no copies of the minutes to review so we voted to approve them at our next meeting.

  - Tony Frassinelli made a motion to accept.
  - Andra Smith seconded the motion.
  - All were in favor. No discussion.
  -
5. We all agreed to meet the last Tuesday of the month.

**Dates are:**  
*May 29, June 26, July 31, Aug. 28, Sept. 25, Oct. 30, Nov. 27, (no December meeting).*

**Time:**  
7:00 p.m.

**Place:**  
The chair will check for availability of Veteran's Room, Probate Room, and Community Center and let us know.

**NOTE:** Since we are having the combined meeting (EDC, BOS, PZC on May 1, we won't have another meeting at the end of April.

Group did short self-introductions. Then we discussed some of what we'd like to see happen in Stafford as far as economic development.

**Richard Shuck:**

- Advocate for business
- Look at surrounding communities and the state
- All of us competing for the same tax base
- Marketing/Grant writer can do a package to promote

- Make Stafford “a great place to do business”
- Make it a regional hub
- More businesses like TTM
- His wheelhouse is zoning
- Create enterprise zone (this is a kind incubator)
- Main Street is the life blood of the town

**Steve Squire:**

- We need to pay a lot of attention to be sure we are responsibly growing our businesses
- He’s working on tax abatement plan

**Tony Frassinelli:**

- More like TTM and find ways to bring people in town
- Create more activities
- Get a competitive grocery store
- Add businesses that create jobs
- Not a burden on schools
- Really build up the town during the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Unitize Grant/Marketing person
- Discussions around reaching out to business and finding out how can we help
- Work on blight issues—when people drive through it’s a deterrent and definitely part of improving economic development

**Marion Rios:**

- It’s a bonus to have two former First Selectman on the committee
- All the different things we bring to the commission will come into play and help
- Arts community is important

**Andra Smith:**

- Wants smart development
- Make sure it is a community people want to live in and have also have a business
- Do out reach do it in the way that is consistent with the PZC and administration?
- Why come to Stafford?
- Would like to continue to look into having a brewery in town. (Jacob Long was looking into this, as well.)

**Dianne Bilyak:**

- How do we get people to come here instead of Sturbridge, Palmer, Enfield, Vernon, or Manchester?
- Main Street is very important, and almost every report the town has done says so (paid and volunteer reports)

**Jen Arpin:** agreed with much of what was said

**NOTE:** The majority of members agreed that Public Comment should be included on our agendas.

**Tasks before next meeting on Tuesday, May 29:**

**Marion Rios:** will work on creative ways we can handle blight and think about town clean up

**Andra Smith:** look into pop-up businesses

**Richard Shuck:** will speak to Aldi, again

**Steve Squire:** will work with Main St. businesses

**Dianne Bilyak:** look at ways to connect with UConn

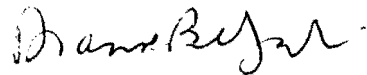
**Jen Arpin:** will find out how many empty buildings we have and make a list

**Tony Frassinelli:** start to think about the marketing/promotional brochure with the Marketing employee

**Adjournment:**

- Tony Frassinelli made a motion to adjourn
- Steve Squire seconded the motion
- All in favor. No discussion.

Respectfully submitted,



Dianne Bilyak, recording secretary