

**TOWN OF HEBRON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
APRIL 19, 2010 REGULAR MEETING
HORTON HOUSE – MEETING ROOM
15 GILEAD ST., HEBRON, CT**

Members Present L.Preston, V.Avelis, P.Casarella, D.Moon

Members Absent: Bruce Raymond, J.Lesisko

Staff Present: Michael O’Leary, Town Planner

1) Call Meeting to Order

V. Avelis called the meeting of the EDC to order at 7:10 p.m.

2) Approval of Minutes:

P. Casarella moved to approve the March 15, 2010 minutes as presented. L.Preston seconded the motion and it carried 3-0-1 with D. Moon abstaining.

3) Recognition of Guests - None

V. Avelis asked that the agenda be modified to address the New Business Items first and all members concurred.

6) New Business

a) Appoint a representative to the Tourism District

M. O’Leary introduced this item, a referral from the Board of Selectmen to have an EDC member represent the Town to the Tourism District. The members discussed the matter. V. Avelis sent an e-mail to the District to ask for additional information such as the functions of the District, meeting schedules, etc. Upon receipt of this information, the EDC will discuss at a future meeting.

The EDC unanimously added another New Business item:

b) Business of the Year Nomination

The EDC reviewed a letter from the Windham Region Chamber of Commerce requesting that the Town of Hebron nominate a Hebron Business of the Year. The EDC discussed several deserving Hebron Businesses. P. Casarella nominated Ace Hardware – Steve Hoffman, owner, as Business of the Year. The reasons included his support of local athletic programs, his participating in the Façade Improvement Program, his cooperation with the Town’s sidewalk and streetscape improvement program, and being a local

employer for a number of years. L. Preston seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Moon also suggested that we nominate a Corporate Citizen of the Year. This could be a citizen or institution in Town. She suggested that the Church of the Holy Family would be deserving of such an honor. D. Moon made a motion that the Church of the Holy Family be nominated. The reasons were their support of many local charities in the community. P. Casarella seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

M O'Leary indicated that he would submit these nominations to the Chamber in the morning.

4) Old Business:

a) Tax Abatement Plan Revision

M. O'Leary distributed the application form that would be used for a developer applying under the Economic Development Incentive Program. It was developed a number of years ago. V. Avelis suggested that the members take a look at the form as it should be updated.

The members reviewed their written comments of the Economic Development Incentive Program from the January meeting. These were given to M. O'Leary and he was asked to update the draft to the revised Program and forward via e-mail to the members for reviewed and comments. This will be on the next meeting's agenda for consideration.

b) Continued Discussion on Survey of Hebron Businesses

There was a discussion on the format for a survey of Hebron Businesses. V. Avelis indicated that the list of businesses still needed to be finalized. D. Moon indicated that she had used "SurveyMonkey", an on-line survey tool, in the past and had found it useful. She indicated that it provided a statistical analysis of the results.

L. Preston asked what we are trying to achieve by the survey, and this should guide our survey questions. Members agreed that the basic purpose was to reach out to businesses and to discover what was Hebron's "niche" in the marketplace. L. Preston indicated that Hebron also needs to know the needs of local businesses and how the town can respond. A number of potential survey questions were suggested. D. Moon offered to assemble the questions and distribute them via e-mail for comments and these will be discussed at the next meeting.

c) Discuss Future Workshop of Land Use Commissions

At the last meeting there was discussion that the planning of a Charette with Hebron Land Use Boards and Commission would be tabled until the new Town Manager joined

the Town and her input and participation would be valuable. Now that she has started in her position, V. Avelis indicated that she would speak to her about this topic and if she has had experiences with charettes in other towns in the past.

5) Any other Old Business

V. Avelis indicated that there was a new Hebron newspaper to be called the Hebron Bulletin. The reported had talked to her and this paper will be mailed to all Hebron households. It would contain all local news including high school sports. She suggested to the reported that it also include a local business to be highlighted each issue. She had offered the EDC assistance in that. M. O'Leary indicated that the reporter had also talked to him about the Façade Improvement Program and other Town projects.

M. O'Leary passed out copies of the summary of the Phase III final report on 501 Church Street that was received today.

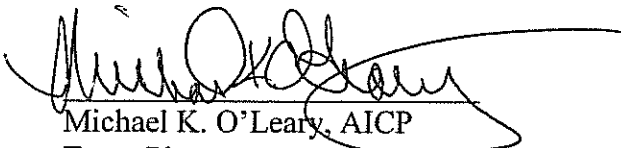
M. O'Leary asked what members might be interested in the next training session of the Community Builders Institute to be held April 29th. D. Moon indicated that she would like to attend.

It was noted that another All Boards Meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, May 8th at 8:30 in the Library and all members are encouraged to attend.

7) Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

The next meeting of the EDC is scheduled for May 17, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. There may be a change in the date and / or time of this meeting. Members will be advised in May.



Michael K. O'Leary, AICP
Town Planner