

**TOWN OF HEBRON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
DECEMBER 21, 2009 REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING – MEETING ROOM
15 GILEAD ST., HEBRON, CT**

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TOWN CLERK

Members Present L.Preston, V.Avelis, J.Lesisko, P.Casarella, D.Moon
Members Absent: Bruce Raymond
Staff Present: Michael O'Leary

V.Avelis called the meeting of the EDC to order at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

L.Preston moved to approve the November 16, 2009 minutes with the following amendment: P.2, remove the last paragraph from the minutes. J.Lesisko seconded the motion and it carried.

Old Business:

a) Discussion and Action on Proposed Amendment to By-Laws

P.Casarella stated in reference to the proposed amendment to the By-Laws: P.3 , 4.3.3 it has been recommended by the Nominating Committee to approve this amendment. The reason for the change is that the proposed wording would provide for more flexibility in filling officer positions when there has been a significant turnover in the Commission. V.Avelis also noted that an example of this would be the most recent occurrence in which P.Casarella who has had many years of serving on the EDC board and recently left for a year and now has returned is ineligible for an officer's position with the current by-laws.

L.Preston moved and J.Lesisko seconded a motion to approve the amendment to the EDC By-Laws on Page 3, section 4.3.3. The motion passed unanimously.

b) Tax Abatement Policy Continued Discussion

The EDC discussed how to approach the planned revisions to the Tax Abatement Policy. D.Moon asked if the current policy could be distributed in an electronic version via email. This way proposed changes could be drafted and distributed and reviewed by members for discussion at the next meeting. It was cautioned that deliberations and or decisions could be made via e-mail, just a distribution of information. V.Avelis requested that one person coordinate the draft, collect ideas from the members, and make a final draft for discussion at the January meeting. L.Preston volunteered to coordinate this effort.

M. O'Leary indicated that he would ask the Town Assessor to review and make comments on the second paragraph of Section A to determine if any changes are warranted.

M. O'Leary will have an electronic version of the policy prepared by staff and distribute them to all the EDC members by the first week of January.

EDC

12/21/09

.Page 2 of 2

New Business

a) Officer Nominations

P.Casarella, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, presented the following nominations: Slate of officers as follows: J.Lesisko- Secretary, L.Preston – Vice Chairman, and V.Avelis - Chairman. P.Casarella moved to accept the slate of officers as presented and to place these names on the January meeting agenda for election of officers. V.Avelis seconded the motion and it unanimously passed.

P.Casarella moved and J.Lesisko seconded a motion under Section 4.3.3 of the By-Laws, as recently amended, to waive minimal requirements of Commission officers. The motion carried.

b) All Board Meeting

It was discussed that the Board of Selectmen have scheduled an All Boards Meeting on January 9, 2010 (Saturday) in the am. After some discussion, it was determined that no members of the EDC would be available for that meeting. M. O'Leary indicated that he would inform the Selectmen.

V.Avelis noted she had hoped that there could be another All Boards meeting, or an all-land-use boards meeting, that could focus on discussing land use issues and economic development issues. The focus would be on Hebron's vision for development. She also noted that this might require doing a marketing study to determine what businesses would make sense in Hebron. Following this study, the EDC could better market Hebron.

P.Casarella reported that the Town of Putnam did a concerted marketing effort to market their town as a center for antiques. They hosted business luncheons with existing businesses to get their input.

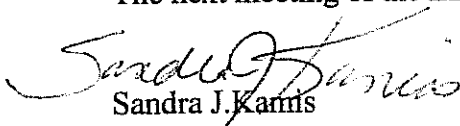
V.Avelis had attended a recent NU economic development conference and it was recommended that each Town should identify their niche to attract development that matches the Town. V.Avelis suggested holding this planned meeting in February or March with the PZC, CC, and the OSLAC to discuss this concept.

It was noted that Judy Podell has a list of businesses and is in the process of cleaning it up. This list would be useful in coming up with a survey of the business community that would be useful for this effort.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

The next meeting of the EDC is scheduled for January 25, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.


Sandra J. Kamis
Board Clerk