

Minutes of the Meeting
Jan. 17th 2012
Economic Development Commission
Town of Brookfield, CT

Present: Hal Kurfehs Chairman, Peter Thompson Secretary, Jim Fisher Vice-Chairman, David Matte, Mara Frankel Divitto, and Ann Amorossi. Absent Joe Rocky.
Chairman Hal Kurfehs convened the meeting at 7:10 P.M.

Approval of the Minutes of November, 2011

Motion to approve minutes was made by Peter Thompson and seconded by Dave Matte, Motion approved.

Vote on Nominations for 2012 EDC Officers

Officers were retained as in 2011 (previous officers).

Motion to approve Officers was made by Mara Frankel Divitto and seconded by Ann Amorossi, Motion approved.

Committee Report on EDC Web Site Development

Committee members; Mara Frankel Divitto, and Ann Amorossi reported on their investigation. Sample of various EDC Web Sites from other towns and probable costs to Brookfield was discussed. The Comptroller would have to have our budget requirements by January 18th; EDC by acting quickly may be able to get the requested budget under the line. We discussed what we must do immediately; a presentation has to be created including estimates from Web Designers and what the Web Site will offer to the benefit of the town. Our present Web Site was created by a high school student at no cost to the town however it is now inadequate and outdated. The EDC Commission strongly feels the necessity of adding the function of CERC, which is the subscription to the site of the Connecticut Economic Resource Center. This site's database lists available commercial real estate and demographic information. There is a fee to join and an annual subscription. Our budget provides has to cover the design and maintenance of this site.

News Times Article on Town Center

The article stressed the need of the Town Center to develop some residential first to provide some demand before it will attract retail entrepreneurs

Celebrate CT! Awards

Two companies were recognized and recommended by the CEDA and Western Connecticut Economic Alliance in the Celebrate CT awards meeting. Western Health Network of Connecticut, and The Matrix office complex at the former Union Carbide Building. The new owners have been very aggressive in getting a good portion of this huge building occupied.

State Jobs Presentation

"Reinventing Connecticut" Was represented by DECD, CT Dept of Labor, CT Development Authority, CT Committee in Investment Corp.

The emphases were on Connecticut becoming more business friendly in spite of our very negative tax structure. Hal Kurfehs attended and commented that it made a sincere attempt to show the positive aspects of Connecticut's effort to be more "Business Friendly"

Western CT Economic Development Alliance

Meeting Wednesday January 18th to discuss funds for the CEDS' a onetime \$120K fee \$60 already secured from government.

Charter Commission Public Meeting

A public Meeting will be held in the Seminar room at the Whisconier Middle School January 26th at 7pm to discuss changes to the Brookfield Town Charter. Additional two Selectmen for total of five is being suggested, as well as also the creation of the position of a Town Manager.

General Discussion

Real estate issues on the future of B J's was discussed, also the future for the 15 acres in the north west quadrant of town and the obstacle having to deal with so many landowners.

Ann Amorossi checked with cost of the Newtown web site, cost was 14k. Hal stated he would discuss with our Comptroller

10) Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Ann Amorossi, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM

Peter Thompson