

**Town of Marlborough
Economic Development Commission Meeting
October 21, 2009
7:00 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Greg Servodidio called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

2. ATTENDANCE

Regular members in attendance for the meeting were: Greg Servodidio, Jane Boston, Brian Fentress, and Peter Hughes, Director of Planning and Development.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no members of the public in attendance.

4. BUSINESS PARK PROJECT

a. Draft Zoning Regulation Discussion

This agenda item was not discussed.

b. Next Steps

This agenda item was not discussed.

5. TOWN STAFF REPORT

Peter Hughes stated he sent the draft of Business Park regulations to Marlborough Associates and Churchill and Banks. Marlborough Associates commented that the regulations seem appropriate.

Peter Hughes suggested that Planning Commission members attend the next EDC meeting on 11/18/09 to discuss Business Park regulations. He will check with the Planning Commission to arrange the meeting, or suggest alternate dates.

The Zoning Commission can be brought into both parking and Business Park regulations in the Dec-Jan timeframe.

The sewer project is coming to a conclusion and there are household connections. WPCA will be adopting regulations. The Marlborough Barn is pleased with the pump station.

The 3700' West Road trail has been completed.

The Town Green project is 95% complete. Lighting will be functional by the middle of next week. The First Selectman plans a grand opening celebration in the spring.

Greg Servodidio asked why the new sidewalk down So Main Street is so far removed from the road, and Peter Hughes responded that it was done in order to avoid the expense of considerable fill.

Greg Servodidio asked if sewers are generating commercial interest in the town center, and Peter Hughes replied that this seems to be the case.

Peter Hughes discussed that there is a new owner for the Thatcher's building who wants to bring back a local pharmacy.

The library has obtained a \$250K STEAP grant, which is available for three years, for the purpose of finishing the second floor. The town must match this amount in order to do the project.

The state will bid economic stimulus funding for a bus stop at Exit 12.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Film Project

Jane Boston provided an update that there is a movie being completed in New Britain, and another will be filming in Middletown. So Windsor is planning to build a film complex, with studios and hotels.

b. Web Site

Brian Fentress distributed an EDC website usage report showing where traffic is coming from: .org, .net, and .com. He wants to get clarity on how those visiting the site find it (e.g. google, or the town website).

Brian Fentress stated that EDC website traffic has doubled in two years, and the average viewer is looking at 1.5 pages. Jane Boston asked what pages are being viewed and Brian Fentress said he would find out. It's possible that visits are due to all the activity in town, such as Marlborough Barn, sewers, sidewalks, and the Business Park. Jane Boston suggested a survey on the site to determine why visitors come to it.

The EDC website needs to be refreshed to include successful projects, including photos. Brian Fentress will work with the web designer to create a draft for an updated site and present to the commission. He asked about the protocol for approval of updates to the site. Greg Servodidio responded that approval is with EDC and should not be party-biased.

Jane Boston asked about the cost for the EDC website and Brian Fentress responded that updates are paid for by the town, so perhaps update costs need to be documented for future reference.

Jane Boston sent photos of Marl Day for update to the EDC site and Greg Servodidio approved of this addition to the site.

Greg Servodidio asked Brian Fentress to send email to all commission members with the charts presented and ask for ideas for new content. Also, tasks may be assigned to commission members, so activities can be handled by all members.

c. 2009 Plan of Conservation and Development Update

This agenda item was not discussed.

d. Regional Economic Development

Jane Boston reported that she attended a lecture by an economist about bringing groups together to work on regional development.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jane Boston made a motion to table approval of minutes. Brian Fentress seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Jane Boston made a motion to adjourn. Brian Fentress seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathryn Parker
Board Clerk