

Economic Development Commission
P.O. Box 308
Somers, Connecticut 06071

EDC Minutes
June 9, 2008
Selectmen's Conference Room
Town Hall

Call to Order

Chairman Lou Bachetti called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

Attendance

Members present were Louis Bachetti, Ron Elliott, David Reed, Richard Cheney and Robert Schmidt.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Robert Schmidt and seconded by Richard Cheney that the minutes of the May meeting be approved without change. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Correspondence

The Chairman had no new correspondence to report

Somers Business Association

Ron Elliott noted that there was nothing new to report since the Business and Merchant Expo was held. Members of EDC are requested to continue to solicit members of the association concerning taking a leadership role as the previous co chairs had resigned. Further discussion on the association will be tabled until the September meeting at which time the topic of the next After Hours Meeting will be reviewed.

Business Survey

The chairman reviewed the results of the business survey with the group. The feedback from the survey concluded the following: That the current temporary business signage regulation go unchanged, that the business directory be issued bi annually with the next issue being distributed in 2009, that way finder signs be used to direct the public to business location, (the chairman volunteered to follow up on the signage issue), that a Newsletter be distributed by the EDC highlighting current and future business issues, (the chairman volunteered to author the correspondence on a tri semester basis)

Status of the of Somersville Mill

David Reed stated that he had nothing new to report on the status of the Somersville Mill. He did however share with the group past correspondence of violation cited to previous owners concerning safety and zoning issues directly relating to the mill. Discussion followed concerning the inability of the town to draft a current list of violations, present them to the new Owner(s) of the mill and demand that the issues identified be remediated immediately or the town will take the necessary steps to take control of the property. The chairman said that he will set up a meeting with the selectmen to express the sentiments of the EDC concerning the safety and potential associated liability issues.

Somerville Streetscape Update

David Reed updated the group on the Somersville Streetscape Project. He reported on the improvements that had been targeted and the timeframe of when they would commence. As a number of the improvements will need state approval the horizon for commencement on a number of the improvements are at least 5 years away. In the interim the committee will look at other ways to start the project by making improvements on School and Maple Street as this work would fall under the town's purview and consequently would be easier and faster to complete.

Other Business

The issue of commercial and industrial land use was discussed. In addition the review of residential and business development plans was discussed. Rick Cheney volunteered to draft a proposal, to be submitted to the selectmen, concerning the involvement of the EDC in the review process to insure cohesiveness of future developments with the goals of the EDC concerning business and recreational accessibility. Lastly, please note that there will not be an EDC meeting held in July.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Robert Schmidt, seconded by David Reed and was approved. The meeting was officially adjourned at 8.37 p. m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ronald L. Elliott, Secretary for the EDC

Minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.