

## **Somers Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes of 11/14/16**

1. Call to Order: Chairman Reed called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. Members present: David Reed, Sarah Maskill, Rick Cheney, and Vicki Clark.
2. A motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 3, 2016 and September 12, 2016 was made by Ms. Clark, and seconded by Mr. Cheney. The motion carried 4-0.
3. Mr. Reed reported the following correspondence:
  - a. Robert Schmidt has resigned. Requests for a recommendation of replacement have been forwarded to the Democratic and Republican Committees and the Board of Selectmen.
  - b. Ms. Clark sent a request for the EDC to discuss holding EDC meetings in various locations to better involve Somers business owners.
  - c. Mr. Reed presented a selection of potential EDC meeting dates for 2017: January 9, February 6, March 13, April 3, May 8, June 5, September 11, October 2, November 6, and December 4. Mr. Reed made a motion to submit these dates to Somers Town Clerk and was seconded by Ms. Maskill; the motion carried 4-0.
4. Old business:
  - a. Ms. Clark provided an update on social media status. Business owner involvement on Facebook has been low. Ms. Clark presented several possibilities:
    - i. Invite Somers business owners to come to EDC meetings and/or conduct EDC meetings at their place of business.
    - ii. Work with the Somers Cultural Commission to begin ~~%Taste-of-Somers+~~~~%Restaurant Week+~~themed events to be conducted in the spring/summer of 2017. Ms. Clark made a motion to invite Somers restaurant owners to the EDC's December 5 meeting to investigate their interest. Ms. Maskill seconded and the motion passed 4-0.
    - iii. Plan and host a realtor/developer conference regarding available commercial properties in Somers, similar to a broker tour, in the fall of 2017. Ms. Clark made a motion to begin planning such an event, Ms. Maskill seconded, and the motion carried 4-0.
    - iv. Ms. Clark made a motion to plan a Business After Hours Event in the spring of 2017. Ms. Maskill seconded and the motion carried 4-0.
  - b. POCD: The last meeting was cancelled. Mr. Reed made a motion to remove this item from future EDC agendas. Ms. Maskill seconded the motion and it carried 4-0.
  - c. New Enterprises: Chairman Reed offered a discussion to note new businesses in Somers.
  - d. Mill Update: Mr. Reed discussed the progress of the Somersville Mill project, including the presentation of a demolition plan, permitting, the beginning of demolition, and the public comment period regarding the creation of a Planned Development District.

- e. Town Development Discussion: Conversations included the lack of housing alternatives, the Conval building, and the proposed Mill-area Planned Development District.
- 5. New Business:
  - a. Somers Demographics Review: Mr. Cheney made a motion to remove this item from future EDC agendas. Ms. Clark seconded the motion and it carried 4-0.
- 6. Chairman's Comments: The December 5, 2016 meeting will be led by Vice Chairman Cheney, and Somers restaurant owners are encouraged to attend.
- 7. Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the EDC meeting was made by Mr. Cheney and seconded by Ms. Maskill. The motion carried 4-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Maskill

*Minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.*