

# Somers Economic Development Commission

## Meeting Minutes of 1/7/2019

1. Call to Order: Chairman Cheney called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. EDC members present: Rick Cheney, Vicki Clark, Pamela Belisle and David Marti. Guest Included: Paul Salva, Tim Keeney, and Wayne Dumas.
2. Minutes: Ms. Belisle made a motion to accept the minutes of the 9/10/18 meeting. Ms. Clark seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0.
3. Correspondence: No new correspondence.
4. Old Business
  - a) Directory App/Town Website Training  
No action taken
  - a. EDC Marketing Materials Proposal/Pricing: Mr. Marti presented a pamphlet. Ms. Clark and Ms. Belisle suggested some edits which Mr. Marti will make. No action taken at this point.
  - b. Social Media Status Report: No action taken.
  - c. 2019 Business Directory Progress Report: will continue working on selling advertisements.
  - d. Strategic Town Development
    - i. Mill Site : Mr. Keeney reported that a building proposal was submitted by a Pennsylvania firm which would include approximately 60 apartments and 22,000 sq. ft. of retail space. Further, no market analysis has been completed, but there is belief that there is a demand for this. Targeted at young and downsizing. 80% of the units would be affordable housing. Parking and traffic would be routed through Quality Ave.  
As this was for informational purpose – no action was taken
    - ii. Business Questionnaire programing project: No progress has been made as Mr. Ritacco is no longer on the EDC. No action was taken.
  - e. Communication Seminar Project : Ms. Clark indicated she has been working on this with Ms. Belisle and that the seminar has been scheduled for January 28, 2019 at Joanna's Café at 6:00PM. There is a fee of \$10 or an ad in the directory. Presentation will be by Steve Pocari and will focus on communication skills. There will also be a networking element to the evening. Advertising is on Face Book, but not a lot of committed yet. Will continue to promote on Face Book. Mr. Marti will create some flyers and they will be displayed around town.
2. New Business
  - a. New Town Business Report: Ms. Clark reported no new business in town.
    - i. Hillsdale College – Paul Salva, Tim Keeney, and Wayne Dumas

reported that Presley and Helen Blake want to reacquire the Monticello and donate it along with their daughter's house and their house (all adjoining) to Hillsdale College. To be named the Presley and Helen Blake Center for Business, Ethics and Entrepreneurship. Fact finding 2-day trip to Hillsdale College was taken by Vicki Clark, Paul Salva, Tim Keeney, Wayne Dumas and Brian Czapla. Impact on town would be loss of tax revenue, as this is a non-profit. The space would be used for a series of annual events, focusing on professional development, continued education, retreats and seminars. Events estimated attendance would 50-75 ppl, 15-20 events per year.  
Jobs for our community – maintain property.  
Project will need "special use" permit from Zoning Board  
Possible give – backs to Somers: Prison programs, Pre-K early reading programs.  
Group will be presenting to the Zoning Board in March or April.

- b. 2019 Meeting Schedule and Annual Report:  
2019 Meeting calendar (see attached). A motion to accept the schedule was made by Ms. Belisle and seconded by Ms. Clark. Motion carried 4-0.
3. Chairman's Comments: Next meeting will be on Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup>.
4. Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the EDC meeting was made by Ms. Clark and seconded by Ms. Belisle. The motion carried 4-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pamela Belisle

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