

ECONOMIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE

C.J. Hurgin Municipal Center
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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2011

7 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center -"Town Clerk's Office"
Relocated to Meeting Room "A"

Present: Chairman, Mike Boyle, Members: Roy Steiner, Anthony Rubino, Robert Stosser, Bonnie Brown, Mike Struna, Pat Smithwick, and Sandi Forman.

Absent: Paul Rinaldi

Also Present: Melissa Pasquale, Director of Real Estate for the Connecticut Economic Resource Center.

Chairman Boyle called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: Pat Smithwick made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting dated January 25, 2011. Motion seconded by Bonnie Brown. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Presentation by CERC: Melissa Pasquale introduced herself and explained what the Connecticut Economic Resource Center provides. Using a PowerPoint handout, (see attached), Melissa detailed the benefits of becoming associated with this organization. (See further attachments).

Updates on Sub-Committees:

Sandi Forman- Reported on a meeting she had with Don Dempsey from the Chamber of Commerce. Sandi was impressed with the new Chamber of Commerce website.

She also reported that First Selectman, Knickerbocker has the letter that will accompany the survey and it is under his review at this time.

Chairman Boyle- Stated that the High School students are looking to interview and profile successful businesses located in the town. This information would be included in all aspects of the media distribution. Chairman Boyle asked the committee members to reach out to contacts within the businesses. Once contact is made, schedules can be set up for interviews.

Pat Smithwick- No Chamber Meeting, no report at this time.

Mike Struna- Reported on having met with Maria, one of the High School students working with the Committee to go over the general permitting process for the town, and had a general question and answer period.

Roy Steiner- He stated that through e-mail he and Paul Rinaldi have been trying to get the signage organized. He placed a call to Steve Palmer, Town Planner who was unavailable due to a vacation. He also spoke with Karen Fildes, at the High School. The weather has hampered the efforts of the committee at this point, however things are moving forward. The cost estimate from Economy Signs may be too high. He will continue to work with Paul and Steve Palmer to lock in locations in the near future. Chairman Boyle commented that he spoke briefly with Karen regarding the signage and the graphic people are working on it and it may be ready in a few weeks.

Tony Rubino- No Chamber Meeting, no report at this time.

Old Business: None

New Business: Chairman Boyle made the announcement that he and Bonnie Brown had been appointed by the Board of Selectmen to the Economic Development Commission. This was done in an effort to pull the two committees together. The vacancies on the Commission were created by the expiration of Charles Steck's term and the resignation and death of Charles McCollam, Jr., Chairman.

Chairman Boyle has turned a requested budget for the Economic Outreach Committee in to First Selectman Knickerbocker, who in turn will submit this to the Board of Finance. The dollar amount is \$6000.00 for signage and \$550.00 for CERC enrollment.

Sandi Forman made a motion to vote for approval of the Associate Membership and the local search. Motion was seconded by Bob Stosser. Discussion: focused on what would be the most advantageous purchase of services from CERC.

Sandi Forman withdrew her motion.

Sandi Forman made a motion to approve the Associate Membership purchase at the current subscription annual fee of \$250.00. The motion was seconded by Bonnie Brown. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Bonnie Brown made a motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Sandi Forman. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Bergh,
Recording Secretary