

TOWN OF NEWTON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
May 12, 2015
MINUTES

Mrs. Millikin called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Mrs. Millikin called the roll: Mr. Hayek, Dr. Clark, Mr. Prendergast and Mr. Maruska were present. Mr. Levante was also present.

Mrs. Millikin stated the Open Public Meetings Act had been complied with.

Chairman Maruska moved to approval of minutes. Dr. Clark made a motion to approve the minutes from March 10th and was seconded by Mr. Hayek. Minutes were approved by a unanimous "aye" vote.

Old Business

1. McGuire's – Mrs. Millikin advised that the McGuire's Redevelopment Plan is now in effect. At this time there has been no one that has approached the Town to develop the parcel.
2. Armory Update – A meeting was being held today regarding clean-up items. Still waiting to get the MOU issued.
3. Hick Avenue – Mrs. Millikin advised that a plan has been provided to the County Engineering Department and the Town Engineer to go over final cost for the traffic light, as well as, the pro-forma has been supplied to the County. Town is working on some changes regarding the pro-forma.
4. Krogh's – Mrs. Millikin advised that Krogh's is still looking for a location in Newton. The location that Krogh's was trying to obtain fell through. She asked for any suggestions from the Commission. Discussion ensued on this topic. Mr. Maruska felt that a brewery would be a viable option to the downtown area. Mr. Maruska questioned if the Town could provide an incentive. Mrs. Millikin advised that there is a tax abatement program in the historic district. Discussion ensued. Ideas regarding locations were 191-197 Spring Street, the old Sussex Cellular Building on Union Place, and Rite Aid on the corner of Spring Street & Union Place. Mr. Maruska advised that he would reach out to the owner of Krogh's to advise him how great of an opportunity it would be to have the business in Newton and offer any assistance in his search.
5. Thorlabs – Mrs. Millikin advised that the EJ Brooks parcel has been purchased. The three homes on Sparta Avenue by Cono's Auto body were demolished as part of their purchase of some of the Merriam Gateway property.

6. Dunkin Donuts – Mrs. Millikin advised that the project is scheduled for the May 20th TRC Meeting and then will be on for the June Planning Board Meeting.
7. Sign Ordinance – Mrs. Millikin provided each Commission Member with a draft of the sign ordinance. Some changes were made during the discussion at last night's Town Council Meeting. A revised draft will be provided to the Town Council for May 27th. Discussion ensued on the sign ordinance.
8. Spring Street One-Way – Mrs. Millikin advised that the project is currently out to bid. Bids are coming in on June 3rd. An alternate was added in for night time work to try to address concerns of the merchants. There will always be access to Spring Street during construction just lane location will shift. Mrs. Millikin showed the construction plans to the Commission.
9. Taco Bell – Mrs. Millikin advised that Taco Bell is on the TRC meeting for May 20th. Discussion ensued on location. Mrs. Millikin advised at the intersection of Hamilton Street and Water Street (Route 206/94) at the County Seat parking lot. Discussion ensued on the location.

New Business

There was no new business.

There being no other business to discuss Mr. Hayek made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Dr. Clark. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Millikin
Deputy Town Manager