

**TOWN OF NEWTON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
March 8, 2011
MINUTES**

Chairwoman Logan called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Mr. Russo called the roll: Mr. Hayek, Dr. Woodhull, Dr. Clark, Mr. Zwahl, Mr. Russo, Mayor Becker, and Chairwoman Logan were present. Absent – Mr. Prendergast, Ms. Joice.

Chairwoman Logan stated that the Open Public Meetings Act had been complied with.

Dr. Clark moved the minutes of January 11, 2011 as presented, seconded by Dr. Woodhull. All were in favor. Minutes approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Mr. Russo went over the draft of the Presentation Folder.
2. Mr. Russo indicated that negotiations were continuing for the sale of the Newton Theatre property.
3. Mr. Russo indicated that the PB&J application would be going before the Historic Commission for approval and then to the Planning Board for final approval.
4. Mr. Russo distributed the new “How to Open a Business in Newton” brochure. He indicated that the brochure would be found in all municipal departments that interact with prospective and current business owners, as well as at the Springboard Shoppes.
5. Mr. Russo discussed the results of the various polls that were recently conducted online at **newtontownhall.com**. The top results were: Bakery and Coffee Shop (new food businesses needed); Card Store and Shoe Stores (new retail businesses needed); and Benches (new amenity needed).

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mr. Russo indicated that a new owner would be forthcoming for the 52 Paterson Avenue property in Town. Thorlabs would be looking to lease approximately 40,000 sq. ft. of this building for their operations as well.
2. Mr. Russo updated the EDC on the status of the bike racks, wayfinding, Spring Street 1-hour free parking, and the County Bus Stop.
3. Mr. Russo indicated that the Town is currently reviewing the various Land Use Ordinances (Chapters 19, 20 and 20A).
4. Mr. Russo updated the group on the status of the Martorana property.
5. Mr. Russo responded to an inquiry by Mr. Hayek on the proposed Tax Exemption Ordinance.
6. The Chamberfest will be held on April 9th at Noon.
7. The MSN Tour of Art is coming up in May.
8. Discussion was held on the possibility of having a farmers market or flea market in Town. Mr. Russo indicated that he had approached the Fire Department and First Aid Squad to see if they would be interested in coordinating same.

Open to the Public - No one from the public spoke.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Woodhull, seconded by Mr. Zwahl. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas S. Russo, Jr.
Town Manager