

TOWN OF NEWTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

January 8, 2013

MINUTES

Mr. Russo called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Mr. Russo called the roll: Dr. Clark, Mr. Zwahl, Ms. Joice, Mr. Prendergast, Mr. Russo, and Councilwoman Becker were present. Mr. Hayek was excused.

Mr. Russo stated that the Open Public Meetings Act had been complied with.

Mr. Prendergast moved the minutes of May 8, 2012 and September 11, 2012 be approved as presented, seconded by Mr. Zwahl. All were in favor. Minutes approved as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Reorganization

Chairwoman: Evin Joice

Nominated by Mr. Prendergast, seconded by Dr. Clark. Nominations closed.

All in favor.

Vice Chairman: Kevin Prendergast

Nominated by Evin Joice, seconded by Mr. Zwahl. Nominations closed.

All in favor.

Secretary: Deb Millikin

Nominated by Chairwoman Joice, seconded by Mr. Prendergast. Nominations closed. All in favor.

2. 124 Spring Street – Mr. Russo indicated that the building has been purchased and the new owner is looking at retail and apartments.
3. Bula Property Update – Mr. Russo indicated that the sale should go through on same by the end of the month. A new restaurant is anticipated.
4. RPM Development Update – Mr. Russo distributed copies of the proposed senior housing development at Eastern Plaza Lot #5. There will be commercial retail space on the corner for a coffee shop, space for a town senior center, as well as a parking garage. The Parking Authority has agreed to transfer the property to the town to effectuate the transaction. The Town is waiting for more information from RPM before anything can proceed.
5. Armory Update – Mr. Russo indicated that RoNetCo is still performing their environmental due diligence on the property.

6. Vision Plan – Mr. Russo indicated that the Town Planner and Marketing Consultant will attend the 1/28/13 Council meeting to go over their final report.
7. McGuire’s Property Update – Mr. Russo indicated that McGuire’s Chevrolet/Cadillac dealership will be moving from Newton to Hampton in the fall of 2013. The Town is exploring the possibility of redevelopment in the current location.
8. Marketing Program – Mr. Russo indicated that he is trying to put money in the 2013 Town budget for an aggressive marketing campaign including web, radio, and print advertising.
9. “Shop Newton” Program – Mr. Russo indicated that he is looking into a program similar to one in Marlboro, NJ whereby residents get a break on their taxes if they shop locally. The Town Attorney is working on same.
10. Commission Membership Vacancies – Mr. Russo indicated that there are currently two vacancies due to the resignations of Dr. Woodhull and Ms. Logan. Mr. Zwahl anticipates leaving this year, thus creating a third potential vacancy. All members are asked to email Mr. Russo the names of potential candidates for the Council to consider.

11. Review and Approval of 2013 Meetings Calendar.

Motion to approve by Mr. Zwahl, seconded by Mr. Prendergast. All in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Russo indicated that the advertisement was placed on The Alternative Press website and that the Town will continue same in 2013.

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Chairwoman Joice, seconded by Dr. Clark. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:15pm. Next meeting is March 12, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,



/s/ Thomas S. Russo, Jr.
Town Manager