

**TOWN OF NEWTON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
March 10, 2015
MINUTES**

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

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

Reorganization

1. Appointment of Chairperson – Mr. Hayek made a motion to approve Mr. Maruska as Chairman and was seconded by Dr. Clark. No other nominations Mrs. Millikin called the roll: Mr. Hayek - yes, Dr. Clark –yes, and Mr. Maruska.
2. Appointment of Vice Chairperson – Mr. Hayek made a motion to approve Mr. Prendergast as Vice Chairperson and was seconded by Mr. Maruska. No other nominations Mrs. Millikin called the roll: Mr. Hayek – yes, Dr. Clark –yes, Mr. Maruska – yes.
3. Appointment of Secretary – Dr. Clark made a motion to approve Mrs. Millikin as Secretary and was seconded by Mr. Hayek. Mrs. Millikin called the roll: Mr. Hayek – yes, Dr. Clark – yes, Mr. Maruska – yes. Mrs. Millikin thanked the Commission.
4. Appointment of Newspaper of Record – Dr. Clark made a motion to appoint the New Jersey Herald and Sunday Herald as the official newspapers of record and was seconded by Mr. Hayek. All were in favor.
5. Appointment of Meeting Dates – March 10, 2015, May 12, 2015, July 14, 2015, September 8, 2015, and January 12, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Hayek made a motion to approve the meeting dates and was seconded by Dr. Clark. All were in favor.

Old Business

1. McGuire's – Mrs. Millikin advised that the McGuire's Redevelopment Plan with modifications was approved on the Planning Board level and was introduced at the Town Council on Monday night. The ordinance is on for public hearing for March 23rd. Mr. Hayek questioned if there was a developer and any PILOTs. Mrs. Millikin indicated at this time there is no developer.

2. Armory Update – Numerous discussions have been occurring with the State within the past two months. The Town is hopeful to have an MOU with the State on their responsibility for the clean-up along with a time line soon. Mr. Levante advised that he is extremely frustrated with the State's response on this since there is significant clean-up required as well as trying to get this back as a ratable property.
3. SID Update – Mrs. Millikin advised the Town Council has tabled this idea. No money was put in this year's budget to establish a SID. Mr. Levante indicated that there was no real community support for the SID. The Town utilized its senior shuttle to take interested people to Washington Boro and the only people to go on the bus were representatives from the Holiday Inn.
4. Hick Avenue – Mrs. Millikin advised that the Town is working on the final numbers of the pro-forma to supply to the County of Sussex to discuss the traffic light at Hicks Avenue and Sparta Avenue. Hopefully a meeting will occur with the County of Sussex within the next 4 weeks.
5. Krogh's – Mrs. Millikin advised that Krogh's is still looking in Newton. They are working on a potential purchase of a site; however, want to wait until the deal is final before they release the exact address.
6. Thorlabs – Mrs. Millikin advised that they are under contract to purchase the EJ Brooks parcel by the end of the month. Thorlabs is also working on development plans and incorporating this parcel into future development.
7. Dunkin Donuts – Mrs. Millikin advised that the Merriam Gateway Plan was amended on the PB level. This was introduced at Monday night's Town Council meeting. The public hearing is March 23rd. It is anticipated an application will be filed for site plan approval by May or June the latest.
8. Sign Ordinance – Mrs. Millikin advised that the proposed sign ordinance was supplied by the Town Planner for discussion. The Town Council along with the Zoning Officer had comments on the ordinance. The planner is working on addressing the various comments and incorporating them into the proposed ordinance. This should be back to the Town Council within the next two months. Discussion ensued on the sign ordinance. Mr. Levante indicated he wants the Town to be "city cool". Mr. Maruska stated this is a critical aspect for businesses. This can help to address empty stores. Really wants to see things switched from negative to positive.

New Business

Mr. Maruska went to New Business. Mr. Jonathan Andrews was present to discuss the Downtown Newton Association (DNA). Mr. Andrews advised that the DNA is being formed to help try to create a SID type committee. The executive board will consist of 9 members. As of today there are 12 people interested in the board. Discussion ensued on the concept. The DNA is looking for a budget of approximately \$90,000. Mrs. Millikin indicated that any funding commitment cannot be done on the Commission level, but rather would have to go to the Town Council.

Spring Street – Mrs. Millikin advised that Spring Street has been approved by ordinance to become one-way. Currently, the final plans are being put together for NJDOT approval. Construction is slated to begin the end of June.

There being no other business to discuss Mr. Hayek made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Dr. Clark. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Millikin

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Deputy Town Manager