

**TOWN OF NEWTON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
September 13, 2016
MINUTES**

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

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

Chairman Hayek moved to approval of minutes. Mr. Hayek made a motion to approve the minutes from July 12, 2016 and was seconded by Mr. Krasnomowitz. Minutes were approved by a unanimous "aye" vote.

Old Business

1. Parking Authority Recommendations. Mr. Levante updated the Commission on the parking discussion he had with the Parking Authority. Ok with the meter increases and parking passes, however, were hesitant on making Adams Street and Central Plaza as free parking. The discussion will go to the Town Council at tomorrow night's meeting. Discussion ensued. Mr. Ciaravolo who sits on the Parking Authority advised that no formal vote was taken. He advised that businesses are only 46% filled on the street. Foot traffic is extremely low. Mr. Ciaravolo stated that a BID would be a good investment for the Town.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Levante advised he wants to make a positive change with no cost. The recommendations that would go to the Town Council will be what the Commission has recommended. Mr. McKernan questioned why do we not want free parking. This will help bring more demand to the downtown.

2. Krogh's – Mrs. Millikin advised that Krogh's still progressing with the licensing end of the business.
3. Thorlabs – Mrs. Millikin advised is still working on their plans. No new updates at this point.
4. Dunkin Donuts – Mrs. Millikin advised Dunkin Donuts receive approval for the water and sewer hookup and paid that today. Currently still waiting for the County to sign off since there is a new County Engineer.
5. RPM Development – Mrs. Millikin developer's agreement has been executed. Working on the parking area an anticipate getting the building on the corner of Trinity Street and Union Place demolished within the next 6 weeks.

6. Style Shop – Mrs. Millikin advised the permits are being issued. A portion of the hook-up fees have been paid.
7. Business Directory – gonewtonnj.com – Mrs. Millikin advised that there are still final changes to be made. Please take a look.
8. Advertising on Buses – Mrs. Millikin no proposals were received. Back out for RFP. These are due in to her office on September 28th.
9. Tax Abatement Program Renewed – Mrs. Millikin advised that this has been adopted and will be in effect prior to the other program expiring.
10. Armory – Mrs. Millikin advised that the Town met with DMVA work is progressing on the clean-up. Money has been received from the Armory Corp of Engineers. Currently are working on obtaining more money for the demo of the structures. Mr. Ciaravolo suggested that a press release be done by the Town with an update on the progress.

New Business –

1. Step by Step Packet – Construction and Zoning are putting together a packet of information to help guide new potential business owners on the process for approvals.
2. Marketing Video – Mr. Levante brought up a meeting held with a professor from SCCC to help complete marketing videos for the Town. College will do the video free of charge. Hoping to get the hospital to donate some money towards this project.

Discussion - none

There being no other business to discuss Mr. Krasnomowitz made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Dr. Clark. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Debra Millikin
Deputy Town Manager