

Town of Harwinton
Economic Development Commission
Minutes: April 27, 2011

Attendance: Christina Emery, Kevin Nelson, Rose Ponte, Tom Schoenemann

Also in Attendance: Rich Stocker - Burlington EDC

1. Call to Order

Tom Schoenemann called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM in the Selectmen's Conference Room.

2. Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

3. Minutes

Upon motion by Rose Ponte, seconded by Kevin Nelson, the minutes from March 30, 2011 were approved.

4. Comments from the Chair

Tom Schoenemann reported on the following:

- He attended a meeting with the Board of Selectmen and Chairman of Land Use groups on April 13th. The group will meet quarterly with the goal of more coordination on town-wide issues. Town Attorney Michael Rybak attended the meeting and explained the conflict of interest policy. Bob Petricone will be invited to the next meeting to discuss Litchfield's affordable housing programs.
- On May 18th, there will be a "Starting a Home-Based Business" program at the Harwinton Library at 7 PM. The event is sponsored by SCORE.

5. Discussion with Representatives from the Town of Burlington regarding Johnnycake Airport area

Rich Stocker, Chairman of the Burlington EDC was present to discuss coordination of the airport property. Further discussions with both owners are needed.

The EDC also had an informal discussion with Mr. Stocker on what the Burlington EDC has been doing. Burlington's efforts have included obtaining a STEAP grant to extend the water line, updating their website content, obtaining email addresses from local businesses, and walking potential businesses through the town approval process. They are also working on a marketing piece "Why Burlington?" that details the advantages for

locating there. Mr. Stocker suggested that the Harwinton EDC examine the zoning maps to see exactly where commercial zoning exists.

6. Committee Progress Reports

- a) Harwinton Business Database – Franci was not at attendance but reported that she started to add information to the database. Other Commissioners should send updates to her for inclusion.
- b) Business Survey Questionnaire – No additional suggestions were provided to the questionnaire prepared by Kevin Nelson. The Commission wants to first establish a page on the Town’s website with useful information prior to starting phone calls.
- c) EDC Website - Kevin Nelson volunteered to keep the list of available properties updated on the EDC webpage. Steve and Christina will draft information for the next meeting.

7. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

8. New Business

Christina Emery reported that the Farmington Antiques Weekend will be relocating to the Harwinton Fairgrounds this year. Dates are June 10 and 11 and again Labor Day weekend (Sept 3 and 4). This will be a good opportunity for local businesses in both Harwinton and Burlington.

Kevin Nelson reported on several spaces available for lease, including one office space at 200 Birge Park and the Day Design property (office space and storage).

Doug Parker from the NW CT EDC will be invited to the next meeting to be held on either May 25th or May 26th.

9. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Emery,
Recording Secretary