

HARWINTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Minutes: Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Members Present: Chair Kerri Ouellette, Vice Chair P. Thomas Schoenemann, Frank Hickey, John DiCarlo, Steve Criss, Franci Tartaglino. Absent: Jon Sederquist

1. Meeting to called to order at 6:38 p.m.
2. Motion to Adopt agenda by Mr. Schoenemann, Seconded by Ms. Ouellette. Passed unanimously
3. Discussion of electing a new commission secretary. Mr. DiCarlo agreed to serve one year only as Secretary as part of his two year term. He was nominated by Ms. Ouellette, seconded by Mr. Schoenemann. Passed unanimously.
4. Commission reviewed the minutes its 5/2/12 meeting. Motion to accept by Ms. Tartaglino, Seconded by Ms. Ouellette. Passed unanimously.
5. Discussion on the Zoning Commission's proposed sign regulations took place. Commission members reaffirmed points in correspondence sent to the Zoning Commission following the 5/2/12 EDC meeting, specifically that the majority of the proposed regulations would not benefit Harwinton.

On a motion made by Mr. Hickey and seconded by Mr. DiCarlo, the EDC agreed to: Recommend to the Zoning Commission that the proposed regulations be scaled back at this time to only address one issue: Making Harwinton's sign regulations on state roads conform to the state's regulations in this regard, not exceed them. Also, in order to address related safety concerns expressed Highway Superintendent John Fredsall, the EDC would like to discuss with Mr. Fredsall issues including the amount of temporary signs the highway department takes down, manpower needed for this task and other relevant safety issues regarding temporary signs.

In addition, the EDC recommends that members of the EDC, Zoning Commission and Planning Commission meet together to discuss issues that overlap each commission's jurisdictions regarding economic development rather than continuously send memos back and forth.

6. Commission members reviewed its short term goals, and agreed to focus on long term goals at its next meeting. Discussion took place on mailing a questionnaire regarding businesses in town along with the town's tax bills to gauge number of businesses interested in participating in a town-wide business directory and ways the town can help its business community.

On a motion made by Mr. DiCarlo and seconded by Mr. Hickey: The Commission agreed that Mr. Schoenemann will revise the questionnaire he crafted for the previous EDC and circulate via email among current EDC members to revise for sending via tax bills to gather business data. Ms. Ouellette will check with the tax office to determine the deadline for sending additional information out with tax bills as well as the cost.

Commissioners agreed that the long term goals to be discussed at the next EDC meeting will include creating a resource guide for businesses, support for a natural gas line in town and working with the Planning Commission on how to include economic development in future Plans of Development

7. Public Participation – none.

8. Any other Business – none.

9. Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Ms. Ouellette. Approved unanimously at 7:48 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by John DiCarlo, secretary

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