

Beacon Falls Economic Development Commission
10 Maple Avenue
Beacon Falls, CT 06403



BEACON FALLS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting
June 22, 2020
MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)

1. Call to Order /Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Chair Jack Betkoski called the meeting to order at 7:12 P.M.

Members Present: Jack Betkoski (JB), Dennis Phipps (DEP), David Pokras (DAP), Jeremy Rodorigo (JR), Edward Mulvihill (EM)

Members Absent: Brian DeGeorge (BD), Edward Korzon (EK)

Others Present: 2 members of the public

2. Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings

JB made motion to approve the minute from the May 4, 2020 meeting. JB/DAP, all ayes

3. Comments from the Public

None

4. Correspondence

JB we welcome Kerry as our new clerk.

5. Old Business

- Discussion re: downtown image with parked cars & trucks - JB had substantial overview at the last meeting and we want to review the next steps, especially the funding. The pandemic has slowed everything down.
- CKS Packaging approved for Enterprise Zone status – JB no further updates.
- Berco Tank of Watertown has submitted plans for Industrial Park facility – JB plans submitted and approved.
- Kolga looking into adding/enlarging their property in Industrial Park – JB still looking to add and enlarge the property.
- TPA streetscape project -Update – JB that review at the last meeting was a good beginning. Resident Gary Komarowsky shared public comment via last meeting regarding this update and it can be found in the May 4, 2020 meeting minutes.
- Moving into Phase 2- No further discussion.

6. New Business

- JB – Dunkin will be doing a soft opening this Friday! Drive Thru only. JB - spoke with the owner and they are getting everything ready. Dunkin will provide JB grand opening date. JB – Dunkin requested EDC assistance with obtaining signage on Route 8. CT DOT stated that it is not allowed at this point. JR – that sounds ridiculous. JB – I will forward CT DOT

correspondence & response to the board members. JB – it is expensive, Dunkin must pay everything it costs to put the sign up and could be well over \$2,000. JB – I have reached out to Sen. Logan for assistance.

- JB – worked the Naugatuck Valley Regional Group and COG we have put in request through the COVID Cares Fund Grant for Town signage downtown (to announce meetings etc.) and a request for consulting funds.
- JB – regarding other things going on around town, spoke with First Selectman Smith and there is an Individual looking to build 300,000 sq. ft warehouse in town on the old Gemini Farm, and I have reached out to that person. O&G is looking to expand their facility as they are looking at a new innovative way on how to make cement. They would like to expand in Murtha Industrial Park. The First Selectman met with them and is very encouraged. We are also looking at alternative energy sources built at the O&G property.
- JB – we should look at spotlighting businesses in town. I think it would be nice to do to something on our website and in the local papers. JR – if we could get something on our website and e-blast it that would be fantastic. I do not mind producing the content. JB – inquired with clerk as to who is the Webmaster for the Town website. Clerk – current webmaster is me. JR – We can do a monthly business spotlight. JR – to work with Kerry on this item.
- JB motion made to have Kerry draft/send thank you letter on behalf for Peter Christensen's service as clerk. DEP/EM, all ayes

7. Grant News /Update/EDC Coordinator Update

JB – looking to start recruitment for EDC Coordinator. I mentioned to the First Selectman possibly taking more of a regional approach and partnering with the Naugatuck Economic Development Coordinator. DAP – I do not see any reason why we should not have Naugatuck working with us. JB – he is very creative, and I know the issue of his loyalty may come up, but I do not feel it would be an issue. DAP – I think he would have our interest as well as what the towns can do together. JB – confirmed that the budgeted amount for a Coordinator is \$48,000/yr. JR – I like the Naugatuck Coordinator and I do not think that there will be many conflicts of interest. If a business is looking for space, then it should be on the landowner to make the best deal. NEDC would have to understand that we would have a say in how the Coordinator conducts business. It is worth discussing. JB – we may end up going with someone totally different, we may get many good applicants given this current economic climate. We will get moving on this.

8. Payment of Bills

none

9. Adjournment

Motion made to adjourn meeting at 7:51 PM. DEP/DAP, all ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry McAndrew
Clerk, EDC