



BEACON FALLS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES May 4, 2020

Chairman John W. Betkoski called the meeting of the Beacon Falls Economic Development Commission to order at **7:15 pm.**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: John W. Betkoski, Dave Pokras, Ed Korzon, Ed Mulvihill

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Brian DeGeorge, Dennis Phipps, Jeremy Rodorigo

OTHERS PRESENT: Ann Walsh, Gary Komarowsky, Oliver Gaffney, TPA Design Group

MINUTES:

D. Pokras moved to approve the minutes of February 24, 2020. Seconded by E. Korzon All in favor, motion passes 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Gary Komarowsky, 15 Second St., Having just listened to your last EDC Meeting on 5-4-2020 regarding the development of South Main Street; I wish to respectfully suggest to your Board the following: 1) I am fully in support of the continuation of the River Walk further down the discussed South Main Street corridor. The North Main Street section has been accepted and is being utilized and is a credit to the town. This in my opinion would add contrast to the "entering town and seeing the Auto Repair Facilities" located along that section of town. It would add to the aesthetics of that area. It would also continue the States plan for a River Walk from Torrington to Derby. 2) As was brought up during your Boards meeting of more fully developing South Main Street, there is currently a plan located in the Town Public Library that you may wish to reference for contrast to the proposed ideas presented at the meeting. There may be some ideas presented in the past that may be worth consideration. This plan went to a Town meeting and was voted on and accepted. Some of what was presented at your Board was talked about in the plan years back, ie; diagonal parking. There were full discussions of going to one lane traffic with additional walk-bike lanes and enhanced parking for the business in that corridor without

taking any lands from the business. I do fully understand that this above-mentioned section of road is State owned currently. Much like the North Main section, the Town would need to talk to the State about its acquisition. The state was looking to rid themselves of the North Main section, same may be true for the South Main section in part or in whole. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

- Discussion re: downtown image with parked cars & trucks – no further discussion
- CKS Packaging approved for Enterprise Zone status – no further discussion
- Berco Tank of Watertown has submitted plans for Industrial Park facility – no further discussion
- Kolga looking into adding/enlarging their property in Industrial Park – Developers working on and beyond that unknown. J. Betkoski – unknown if this has gone through P&Z meeting yet. No further information is available currently.
- TPA streetscape project planned for February or March 2020 Moving into Phase 2 – Oliver Gaffney from TPA presented an overview on proposed changes. D. - landowners may pay for part of this, has a budget been put together to present this to the land/business owners? Oliver- it was discussed last year with people in the area that would be affected. This is a State road and we may be able to provide grant information; however, it is not a requirement that the land/business owners have to pay for improvements. They can grant the State to do improvements on their property. J. Betkoski- if we can work hand in hand with the State that would be the best, as it would also provide additional value to the landowners. It is my understanding that the DOT welcome these types of projects. Oliver- that is correct, and they make sure Engineering is sound and that the public involved have an opportunity to voice any concerns. J. Betkoski – I believe the BOS would be on board with all of this, but we would want to make a presentation to the BOS and eventually BOF, then public comment.

J. Betkoski - This pandemic is having an impact on downtown businesses. Dunkin still scheduled to open later this month, but I still worry about New Harvest, Subway, etc. We must be ready to deal with what may come our way. E. Mulvihill – We should focus on what the businesses are doing now and publicize that information, to assist them with patronage. J. Betkoski - I am not sure what we can do on the town website, but I can talk to Gerry because the website does get visited often. E. Korzon– even if we relax some of the regulations for outdoor seating etc. so that they can have more business once things begin to reopen.

J. Betkoski – prior to the pandemic we were discussing CERC. I was going to meet with the President of the Naugatuck Economic Development Corp. and include our First Selectman. That will be scheduled once pandemic restrictions are lifted.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

CERC REPORT / GRANT NEWS:

None

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

With no other business, **D. Pokras** moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm., Seconded by **E. Mulvihill**. All in favor. Motion passes 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry McAndrew

Office Administrator/Substitute Clerk