

Minutes of the Hamden Economic Development Commission
December 11, 2012

Present: T. Sacchetti, Chairperson, B. Zambrano, S. Rolnick, T. DelGrego, S. Diaz,
D. Giannini, N. Schatz, D. DeNicola

Not Present: S. Borrelli, A. Inzero, D. Moses

Also Present: D. Kroop, G. Vasil

1. Call to Order

T. Sacchetti, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 5:32PM.

2. Reading and Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting

T. Sacchetti, Chairperson asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2012 meeting, T. DelGrego made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2012 meeting S. Rolnick seconded, passed unanimously.

3. Report of the Director

- 3-Year plan – Not much has changed. Dale discussed the Tax Incentive Program.
- He told the Commissioners that Florence left for a Grants Administrative position in Meriden and Gail left to fill a vacant position in the Mayors office. He now has Sharon Regan working part-time temporarily until a permanent staffing decision is made. She worked for us in the Community Development office years ago. Our intern Kristen is working 5-8 hours a week. She did most of the Economic Development newsletter which went out to about 540 people, we used the Chamber's member list. We are using Constant Contact for the data base. He still doesn't know what is going to happen in the Department.
- 2013 speaker series – Dale passed out a partial list of speakers for 2013 (Jan., Feb., Mar.) He asked the Commissioners if they had some ideas on other speakers. A discussion ensued on some of the topics they would like to hear about.
- BAC - Richard Pearce will have a four part series seminar (financial, business plans, etc.)again in the late winter. He will do a 10 minute pod cast on the website to get more interest in the BAC.
- Dale stated that he had another tour of the incubator with 22 people, including Senators Looney & Crisco, State Rep. Villano, some regional people, EPA , Commissioners and 2 Council people.
- Dale used Dave DeNicola's business as an example of how some of the zoning regulations changed. Dave explained what happened when he went to P & Z for a variance. P & Z found that it was zoned wrong along that area of Whitney Avenue and they are not sure how they are going to fix it. A long discussion ensued on the issue. Dale used a local dentist office who wanted to move his practice on Whitney Avenue as an example of how the zoning regulations need to be changed from T-3 to T-4. Cafe Amici is expanding into the store front next to them and they had an issue with zoning but it was straightened out. The P & Z Commission passed the sign regulations we wanted the same night.

4. Approval of the 2013 Economic Development meeting schedule

T. Sacchetti asked for a motion to accept the 2013 schedule, D. Giannini made a motion to accept the 2013 schedule, B. Zambrano seconded, passed unanimously.

5. Old Business – None

6. New Business -None

7. Project Updates: Redevelopment, Openings, etc

- A new Japanese Restaurant opened near the Corner Deli
- Moe's Southwest Restaurant opened
- Edge fitness opened
- Planet Fitness will open in late December early January
- Elite Fitness closed
- Hockey Town opened on Sanford Street. They will have parties and hockey training.
- Fred Astaire dance studio moved to the Home Depot Plaza
- A dentist and a financial services group signed a lease for two spaces at Highwood Square. The residential part is full and has a waiting list.
- Marketplace Plaza will be doing a major renovation project in the next 2 years – they will move Pier One and knock down that building, among other changes.
- The broker for 100 Skiff Street came to see Dale. They have a good retailer for the site.
- Tommy K's Plaza is almost full.
- Dale stated that he is more involved in Chamber committees. He is working on the Homebase Business and the golf tournament committees. He also mentioned that the proceeds from the tournament will go to the Make a Wish Foundation, Happy Tails, the Food Bank and a few more organizations.
- Dale mentioned that Nathan's last meeting will be in January because he and his wife are moving to England.
- Dolores mentioned that Happy Tails Foundation is desperately in need of storage space for supplies. A 12 x12 space with 8 foot ceilings on ground level would be good, if anyone knows of any available space they can use please let her know.
- T. Sacchetti asked if there was anything new on Mather Street or Himmel Bros sites. Dale stated that there was a change in ownership on the Himmel Bros site and an offer was made but not accepted.

8. Adjournment

With no other business to discuss T. Sacchetti asked for a motion to adjourn at 6:35 PM, B. Zambrano made a motion to adjourn at 6:35 PM, T. DelGrego seconded, passed unanimously.