

1. Call to Order

The Chester Economic Development Commission held its monthly meeting on Monday, June 9, 2014, at the Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, Connecticut. Chairman Steve Flett called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM.

2. Roll Call

Those members in attendance were Steve Flett, Michael Sanders, Susan Wright and Felise Cressman. First Selectman Ed Meehan and Jan Good were also present.

3. Audience of Citizens

- Jan Good - to talk about Merchant Website

Jan Good did an extensive review of the Chester Brochure/Merchant Website, including construction of the website and printing/distribution of the brochure. She reviewed out of pocket expenses as well as considerable time volunteered. She reviewed the sign up procedure for both the brochure and website noting some people might opt out of the brochure but want to be included in the website. Chairman Flett proposed providing Jan Good with a list of professional service businesses in town which the Commission has compiled from a list obtained from the Tax Collector. The list has 36 different categories. A small stipend could be given to support updating of the list. There was discussion regarding photographs for business listings. Chairman Flett noted perhaps once a year the tax roles should be checked to be sure business information is correct and up to date.

Jan Good suggested an announcement could be sent out on the town email blast notifying businesses of this list and that anyone is welcome to join. She also noted maintenance of the website is very time consuming.

The Town Website and Merchant Website links were reviewed at length.

Chairman Flett noted the Merchant Website Webmaster would be Jan Good. EDC will assist in providing data.

Sources of funding were reviewed.

Further discussion ensued regarding photographs, sign up procedure and contents of the form, funding for distribution and construction of the website, current and future funding, etc.

Motion by Sanders, second by Cressman, to authorize EDC Chairman to approve invoices of up to \$1000 for purposes of constructing

**and finalizing website/brochure and media access, etc.
Unanimously approved. Motion Carried.**

4. Discussion of 2014 Program Initiatives

Bridge Construction Survival Booklet Update

There was much discussion regarding preparation of a Bridge Construction Survival Booklet. Susan Wright noted she spoke to a gentleman from Torrington who was somewhat helpful, but he indicated they really didn't close the downtown. He suggested contacting Mr. Maziraz again to see if he had anyone else to talk to that might have actually closed a road. It has been suggested maybe having weekly events during this time period might bring people into town.

First Selectman Meehan reviewed the bridge schedule. It will go out to bid May/June 2015, contract to be awarded mid-summer, utilities after that. The area will then be fenced off starting January 2016. TranSystems will be preparing the detour plans. Issues to be considered are laydown area, managing deliveries, snowplowing, etc. First Selectman Meehan will talk to John Travato from the State relative to these matters.

ESB and SCORE Update

Susan Wright noted she in continuing discussion with ESB and SCORE, but all this hinges on getting the survival guide done. ESB has agreed to hold a series of meetings, in coordination with SCORE, probably on a quarterly basis. The first meeting was held a couple weeks ago and attended by 9 merchants. The merchants need to voice their concerns in order for SCORE to be of assistance.

EDC Banner/Sign

Michael Sanders noted Planning & Zoning has started discussion regarding banners. First Selectman Meehan noted a banner on a State Highway would require an Encroachment Permit to the State D.O.T. to place two poles on either side of the State Right-of-Way and what the advertising will be. The hardest thing would be to manage the requests. Location for such a banner was discussed. Meehan suggested Route 148 at the Brushmill and Inspiration Lane, which is a commercial area. He also noted there are funds in the new budget for Gateway signs into town and there should be room available at the bottom of those signs for small banners. Meehan suggested talking to CL&P to get a cost for utility poles.

New Business

There was a brief discussion regarding an upcoming public meeting to be held possibly on October 6th, location to be determined.

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The question was also asked if there has been any thought of fund raising to save the "Meeting House." Meehan noted there also be grant money available for that purpose.

5. Approval of Minutes - May

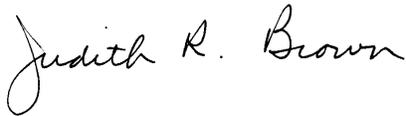
**Motion by Cressman, second by Wright, to approve May Minutes as written. Unanimously approved with M. Sanders abstaining.
Motion Carried.**

Chairman Flett noted he and his wife will be away for 10 months starting end of September on a boat trip to the Carribean. First Selectman Meehan has been working on trying to get new members for EDC.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith R. Brown".

Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary