

1. Call to Order

The Chester Economic Development Commission held its regular meeting on Monday, May 12, 2014, at the Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, Connecticut. Chairman Flett called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

2. Roll Call

Those in attendance were Steve Flett, Susan Wright and Felise Cressman.

3. Audience of Citizens - no audience was present.

4. Discussion of 2014 Program Initiatives

- C-Pace - Update

Chairman Flett noted there were no follow up items for C-Pace.

- Merchants Update

Susan Wright noted she attended the last Merchants Meeting. The Merchants have expressed an interest in being able to have banners for new businesses sponsored by EDC. Merchants also expressed an interest in knowing how small businesses can deal with road construction projects. An important part of these projects are proper signage. It was noted the Main Street Bridge project is scheduled to start January 2016. Everyone needs to be part of this process - Merchants, Library, Historical Society, Fire Department, etc. Chairman Flett noted traffic is a big part of this, but also how do businesses cope with these projects. Susan noted some towns have prepared booklets so adequate information is given out relative to traffic patterns, parking, etc. The Merchants agreed they would attend some kind of a night meeting at Town Hall to discuss the bridge project and how businesses can cope with specific issues. Perhaps a D.O.T. representative and State Representative might also attend such a meeting to answer specific questions. It is important to plan ahead well before the project begins.

The next steps should be to have the Merchants get on board and then set up a meeting possibly in June. Another important aspect to consider is truck deliveries during road construction.

There was a brief discussion regarding the public informational meeting of the Main Street Project Committee. It was noted Frank Ferrari wanted to ask the question of why the water lines aren't being considered for replacement at the same time, but didn't get to ask the question. He noted the water lines are over 100 years old.

There was discussion regarding having a banner on the State Highway to assist in traffic flow. This would require a permit from the State. Once the poles are in place, they could possibly be used for other

events happening in Town.

- Merchant Website

Felise Cressman noted a Merchants Website has been prepared and is spectacular, although she hasn't seen it. It is not live yet. There are links that tie into all kinds of events. These links could possibly be used during the road construction project. It was noted they could use some financial support. Chairman Flett will check the EDC budget to see if there are any funds available.

There will be a shredding event on May 31st from 9 to 12 noon.

- ESB and SCORE Update

There was a brief discussion regarding upcoming meeting with ESB and SCORE. It was noted these meetings are also open to people from other towns as well. The SCORE meeting is May 22nd at the Chester Town Hall. They would like to see what people want before scheduling other meetings. The meeting will be promoted on the Town Website and the town wide email blast.

- Chester Sunday Market Update

Susan Wright noted the Sunday Market starts in June. They are going to try and work more with the merchants. There will be a "Merchant of the Month". The individual businesses need to do something themselves to encourage people to come in to their businesses. It was noted the Market does not accept "SNAP" benefit cards.

- New Business - none.

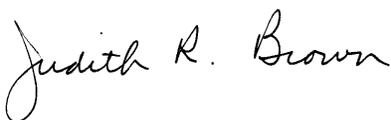
5. Approval of Minutes - April

Motion by Cressman, second by Wright, to approve February and April Minutes as written. Voting in favor - Cressman, Wright, Flett. Opposed - none. Motion Carried.

6. Adjournment

Motion by Cressman, second by Wright, to adjourn at 8:35 PM. Voting in favor - Cressman, Wright, Flett. Opposed - none. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary